Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Moldova and the Cowater International Sweden AB, related to the Global Capacity Development Programme on Sustainable Public Procurement

Between

Cowater International Sweden AB Norrtullsgatan 6 SE-113 29 Stockholm Sweden ("Cowater")	*and*	**Ministry of Finance** 7 Constantin Tanase str. MD-2005, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova ("Partner Organisation")

each a "Party" and together the "Parties".

Background

1. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is funding a Global Capacity Development Programme on Sustainable Public Procurement ("SPP Programme") to support increased deployment of SPP practices in Sida's partner countries.

2. Sida has awarded a framework agreement to Cowater for the planning and implementation of the SPP Programme, including the recruitment of relevant partner organisations to implement initiatives, which promote the use of SPP ("Change Projects") and the provision of capacity development support to the partner organisations.

3. Cowater has identified the Ministry of Finance as a Partner Organisation to implement a Change Project in Moldova ("the Country").

This Memorandum of Cooperation shall become effective on the date of signature of both Parties and shall not extend beyond 3 May 2027 unless otherwise agreed in writing.

The Parties agree as follows:

1. Objectives

The overall objective of the SPP Programme is for SPP to be used as a strategic tool for sustainable development and the achievement of Agenda 2030.

The Parties agree to cooperate with the objective of achieving the following results in the Country:

a) **Improved policy frameworks**: The regulatory framework includes guidance on the use of SPP and is increasingly harmonised with EU standards

b) **Increased political will and knowledge**: A broad section of stakeholders understand and support the use of SPP

c) **Enhanced use of SPP**: Spending agencies and bidders are increasingly using SPP.

The objectives of the Change Project implemented by the Partner Organisation are to:

- develop SPP guidelines;
- integrate sustainability requirements into model tender documents;
- develop specifications containing social, environmental and innovation criteria for selected products; and
- develop training curricula and build the capacity of contracting authorities to use tender documents containing sustainability criteria.

2. Responsibilities of the Partner Organisation

The Partner Organisation agrees to:

a) implement the Change Project and its associated activities as described in clause 1;

b) designate a project champion and change team with responsibility for leading the implementation of the Change Project;

c) authorise the project champion and change team to receive relevant capacity development support from Cowater at mutually agreed times.

3. Responsibilities of Cowater

Cowater agrees to:

a) work with the Partner Organisation to agree the capacity development support required to support implementation of the Change Project;

b) support the Partner Organisation to implement the Change Project through the provision of relevant capacity development support on SPP, including:

- mentoring and technical support;
- professional training;
- opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and networking within and across partner countries of the SPP Programme;
- assistance for outreach to stakeholders and procurement networks in which the Partner Organisation participates.

c) designate a country mentor with primary responsibility for the provision of capacity development support to the Partner Organisation.

4. Designated Contacts

The designated country mentor for Cowater is:

Mr Serghei Merjan

The designated project champion and change team for the Partner Organisation are:

project champion: Mr Sergiu Căinăreanu

change team members: Mrs. Mihaela Movilă
Mrs. Olga Morari
Mrs. Victoria Fortuna
Mrs. Emilia Stiharu
Mrs. Mătăsaru Lucia
Mrs. Radul Lilia
Mrs. Grosu Constanția

5. Scope of Capacity Development Support

The capacity development support offered by Cowater is limited in scope and provided at the absolute discretion of Cowater and subject to the resources allocated for the SPP Programme.

The capacity development support offered by Cowater may be offered on a joint basis to several partner organisations where similar support is required.

The SPP Programme will primarily fund technical support, mentoring and training for the project champion and change team only. Where capacity development needs are identified for other staff of the Partner Organisation or in the Country, the SPP Programme may support the project champion and change team to meet these needs, where this forms part of the objectives of the Change Project.

The SPP Programme may fund travel, subsistence and accommodation costs related to attendance at SPP Programme workshops by invited members of the change team or other invited participants. Such costs shall only be funded where so notified by Cowater and shall be in accordance with any conditions notified.

The SPP Programme will not fund the purchase of any goods or research activities.

No funding will be provided directly to the Partner Organisation or state budget under the SPP Programme.

6. Monitoring

Both Parties commit to:

a) jointly monitor and report on the progress of the Change Project;

b) discuss actions needed to address challenges or delays with a view to agreeing any required changes to the objectives or work plan of the Change Project.

7. Disclaimer

By signing this document or by participating in the SPP Programme, the Parties are not committing to legally binding obligations. It is intended that the Parties remain independent of each other and that their collaboration does not constitute the creation of a legal entity, nor authorise the entry into a commitment for or on behalf of each other.

This Memorandum of Cooperation does not constitute an international treaty.

8. Withdrawal

Cowater has the right to withdraw from its responsibilities under this Memorandum of Cooperation at any time:

a) in case funding for the SPP Programme or the Change Project implemented by the Partner Organisation has been suspended or withdrawn;

b) where so instructed by Sida;

c) where Cowater assesses that the Change Project is unlikely to meet objectives or make acceptable progress;

d) for any other reason, duly justified by Cowater.

The Partner Organisation has the right to withdraw from its responsibilities under this Memorandum of Cooperation at any time for any reason, duly justified by the Partner Organisation.

Withdrawal by any Party shall be notified to the other Party in writing and shall have immediate effect.

This Memorandum of Cooperation is concluded in two original copies, in the English language, each Party receiving one original copy.

Duly signed by the Programme Manager on behalf of Cowater:	**Duly signed by an authorised representative on behalf of the Ministry of Finance:**
Dl Samuli Leminen Head of Nordics Cowater Sweden Date:	Mr. Andrian Gavriliță Ministry of Finance Date:

Annex 1: Work Plan for Change Project

No	Activity	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	Mar 2026	Apr 2026	May 2026	Jun 2026	Jul 2026	Aug 2026	Sept 2026	Oct 2026	Nov 2026	Dec 2026	Jan 2027	Feb 2027	Mar 2027	Apr 2027
A	**PROJECT LAUNCH**																		
1	Notification of programme start																		
2	Planning meeting																		
3	Consultations on MOU																		
4	Project kick-off meeting and initial training (online/offline)																		
B	**DEVELOP SPP GUIDELINES**																		
1	Discuss scope, status and style of guidelines																		
2	Develop outline of structure and key contents																		
3	Draft guidelines																		
4	Consultations on draft guidelines																		
5	Finalise guidelines																		
C	**INTEGRATE SUSTAINABILITY INTO MODEL TENDER DOCUMENTS**																		
1	Review of the legal framework for SPP and current model tender documents																		
2	Identify areas where sustainability issues can be added																		
3	Draft revisions to model tender documents (STTA support if necessary)																		
4	Consultations on draft revisions																		
5	Finalize updates to model tender documents																		
D	**DEVELOP SPECIFICATIONS WITH SUSTAINABILITY**																		

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	CRITERIA FOR SELECTED PRODUCTS (STTA support if necessary)																		
1	Identify potential products (works/services) and agree priorities																		
2	Consider potential sustainability requirements																		
3	Market consultations on sustainability requirements for selected products																		
4	Draft sustainability criteria for selected products																		
5	Pilot use of specifications with sustainability criteria																		
6	Review pilots and adjust specifications																		
E	**DEVELOP TRAINING CURRICULA AND BUILD CAPACITY TO USE TENDER DOCUMENTS (Training of trainers)**																		
1	Introductory seminar on SPP, as part of the kick-off event																		
2	Agree objectives, target audience and duration of SPP module																		
3	Develop and agree curriculum																		
4	Draft training materials																		
5	Plan for training																		
6	Deliver training																		
F	**PROGRAMME CLOSING**																		
	Planning the closing event																		
	Organization of the logistics																		