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### **Decision on SECU Case. No. SECU0003**

UNDP takes note of the compliance review that the Office of Audit and Investigations conducted on Case No. SECU0003 and wishes to thank the Social and Environmental Compliance Unit for its valuable analysis and recommendations which will be used to inform UNDP's approaches going forward.

The purpose of SECU is to ensure accountability to those individuals and communities with whom we work. It is important that these voices are heard, and that UNDP has an opportunity to respond to issues that they have raised.

In my capacity as Administrator of UNDP, I take very seriously SECU's reports and our responsibility to comply fully with our own Social and Environmental Standards (SES).

This report dated 3 May 2018 and published on 8 June 2018 has been thoroughly analysed by the Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS (RBEC) and the UNDP Country Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH). The project under review was part of UNDP's programme in response to the massive flooding that devastated Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2014. The report provides us with a rich source of information and learning about a number of interventions in this project.

I note the overall positive impact of UNDP BIH's broader programmatic intervention in response to the floods, undertaken under particularly challenging circumstances. I also note the efforts undertaken by the Country Office to mitigate some of the issues arising out of this particular project. In view of the evidence provided and a number of the findings, it is clear that there is room for organizational learning, especially in the area of procurement of goods that require the highest standards to protect consumers and beneficiaries. In this regard, SECU's recommendations are very helpful as we work to continuously improve our policies and programmatic impact in support of the most vulnerable populations around the world.

I have consulted with the Regional Bureau and the Country Office on the findings and recommendations in the report. A series of actions have and will be put in place which will be actively followed up on including, for example:


- Already providing the beneficiaries with a number of different options, including alternative seeds or agricultural tools;
- Ensuring the presence of official agriculture and/or phytosanitary inspection agency representatives for each delivery of plants and similar agricultural material to ensure coordinated risk assessments and joint action around possible risks related to plant health prior to distribution to beneficiaries;
- In cooperation with other UN entities and expert guidance, create a Preparedness and Response Guideline/Toolkit for projects dealing with plant and seedlings distribution to beneficiaries in order to define the steps and actions to be taken in response to possible disease outbreaks. The Preparedness and Response Guideline/Toolkit will stipulate the formal involvement of relevant authorities as part of regular procedures for delivering UNDP agriculture related assistance to the beneficiaries;
- As part of the Preparedness and Response Guideline/Toolkit, UNDP BIH will also include specific steps to be taken in order to ensure timely communication of identified risks to affected beneficiaries;



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- Ensuring that all procurement processes and related forms include SES requirements as per UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP). In addition, LTAs have been signed with freight forwarding companies. All other service providers will be contracted through the appropriate contractual modality.

I would like to reiterate my strong personal commitment to ensuring UNDP's adherence and commitment to SES standards and principles. The work of SECU through its compliance function is critical to helping us achieve this.

  
Achim Steiner  
Administrator  
4 February 2019