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AUSTRIAN
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IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

for the
Strategic Framework
for Adaptation to Climate Change
in the Dniester River Basin

Geneva • Kyiv • Chisinau • Vienna
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Mohyliv-Podilskyi

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	6
2. OVERVIEW OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION MEASURES IN THE DNIESTER BASIN	8
3. MECHANISMS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION AND FINANCING OF ADAPTATION MEASURES	12
3.1 Integrated transboundary management of the Dniester basin	12
3.2 European Union Association Agreements	15
3.3 National, sectoral and local development programmes	17
3.4 Climate change and adaptation policy	19
3.5 International cooperation and technical assistance	22
3.6 Informational and promotional support	27
4. SUMMARY OF MECHANISMS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ADAPTATION MEASURES	28
ANNEXES	32
I. Features of recommended climate change adaptation measures in the Dniester basin	32
II. Overview of “parallel processes”: programmes, strategies, plans and projects addressing related tasks	43

TABLES

2.1 Strategic Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Dniester River Basin and groups of proposed measures	9
2.2 Estimated cost of climate change adaptation measures in the Dniester basin	11
3.1 Connection between certain European directives and the Strategic Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Dniester River Basin	15
3.2 Elements of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions of Moldova and Ukraine	21
3.3 Overview of the capacity of certain international funding mechanisms to support climate change adaptation	22
3.4 Existing and prospective mechanisms for financing adaptation through international climate funds	25
4.1 Summary of mechanisms for implementation of the Strategic Framework and adaptation measures	29

FIGURE

2.1 Classification of adaptation measures by target area, category and approximate cost	10
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

E5P	Eastern Europe Energy Efficiency and Environment Partnership
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ENVSEC	Environment and Security Initiative
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIS	Geographic information system
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contribution
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
KfW	Credit Reconstruction Bank (German Development Bank)
NEFCO	Nordic Environment Finance Corporation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization

01

01. INTRODUCTION

Prepared as part of a project of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), with the support of the European Union and the Austrian Government, the Strategic Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Dniester River Basin identifies actions that need to be taken in the Dniester basin to prepare for the most likely impacts of climate change on conditions in the basin, arising from changes in processes in the aquatic environment. By the middle of the 21st century, these changes are expected to include:

- an increase in the flow of water and in the intensity of flooding;
- a gradual decline in the volume of water resources available, especially during periods of low water levels in tributaries of the Dniester;
- a corresponding decline in water quality;
- further deterioration in the condition of aquatic and wetland ecosystems, particular-

ly in the lower reaches of the Dniester, including the delta.

Taking into account the views of a broad range of stakeholders, the Strategic Framework proposes a package of concrete adaptation measures in the Dniester basin. These proposals are the outcome of analytical work by specialists from Moldova, Ukraine and international organizations, and several years of consultations through the bilateral Working Group on Flood Management and Climate Change Adaptation in the Dniester River Basin.

While the Strategic Framework is not a legally binding document or official intergovernmental action plan, it does outline the consensus among organizations and specialists in the basin about what needs to be done to mitigate the expected adverse impacts of climate change and it offers a range of ideas for implementation.

Given the current economic environment, when even state programmes adopted at the governmental level are suffering from a shortage of financial resources and funding delays, one

can hardly expect the immediate allocation of significant targeted funding for adaptation in the Dniester basin. Many of the proposed adaptation measures are also measures that are necessary to some degree or another for the normal integrated management of the Dniester basin and for the performance of regular measures to protect against flooding, reduce water consumption, improve water quality and preserve and restore ecosystems of watersheds and water bodies in the basin. In this connection, the Strategic Framework merely notes that these actions are important for timely adaptation to climate change, while some of the specific parameters will need to be adjusted taking into account the likely trends and magnitude of climate change.

In part, the proposed measures integrate and define in greater detail the actions specified in various state programmes, identifying priorities and promoting consistency among actions for the entire basin.

Furthermore, information about climate change and its consequences is still marked by uncertainty, and ideas in this field are constantly evolving and being refined. In accord-

ance with this trend, both the set of adaptation actions itself and the details involved in the implementation of concrete measures also need to be reviewed and updated regularly. Therefore, efforts aimed at implementation of the recommendations contained in the Strategic Framework consist not so much of the drafting and execution of a new comprehensive programme of independent actions, but rather the organization of a process for the systematic tracking of trends and changes, and the ongoing placement of “climate emphases” in existing and prospective programmes in the Dniester basin, Moldova and Ukraine, in individual sectors and regions, and also within the context of international cooperation.

This activity can be carried out only through joint efforts by the interested agencies, organizations and specialists in Moldova and Ukraine in cooperation with the international community. The Implementation Plan for the Strategic Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Dniester River Basin looks at mechanisms for this kind of cooperation and for the attraction of funding for the practical implementation of the proposed measures.

02

01. OVERVIEW OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION MEASURES IN THE DNIESTER BASIN

The package of coordinated adaptation measures proposed in the Strategic Framework is summarized in Table 2.1. In addition to the groups of measures covering adaptation based on the four identified areas of climate change impacts on conditions in the basin (reduction in losses from flooding, water scarcity, deterioration in water quality, support for and restoration of ecosystems), measures of a general nature were also proposed to enhance the effectiveness of adaptation and cooperation in the basin as a whole.

Within the context of the preparation of the Implementation Plan for adaptation measures, specialists from Moldova and Ukraine

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