

PRESS RELEASE



United Nations Development Programme

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THE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST LAW IS OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE FOR MEETING THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was disappointed to note that, after four years of preparations and three versions of **the Conflicts of Interest Law**, the Parliament of Montenegro at its recent session failed to pass this critical piece of legislation.

Given that the last version of the Law was prepared in accordance with similar already in force in Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, consequently Montenegro remains the only country in the Region with a Conflicts of Interest Law in force which is neither in line with other similar laws in the countries of the Region nor in compliance with the EU Standards.

Also, we would like to stress that the EU Commission Feasibility Study noted that the **corruption** in the country remains one of key challenges for Montenegro on its way to EU accession.

Over the past five years UNDP has worked on capacity building of both Government Institutions as well as Civil Society Organizations and has supported development of a number of important national level strategic documents and legislation.

Together with our partners UNDP has supported the activities of Civil Society Organizations in their efforts to combat corruption in the country. Also, in cooperation with our Government partners, a conference at national level titled "Implementation of UN Convention Against Corruption into Montenegrin Legislation" was organized earlier this year.

More specifically, UNDP has supported a workshop on this legislation three days before Parliament session, inviting all interested parties to provide their inputs and recommendations for the Draft Law.

Having recognized the extremely important role of the Parliament in building democratic processes in the country, UNDP has recently announced an extension of its support to the Parliament in the forthcoming three year period. In this regard UNDP would like to offer its support to the Parliament in any way in order to have the Conflicts of Interest Law passed and in force as soon as possible.

Given that corruption levels are directly linked with poverty levels and social exclusion in the countries, UNDP believes that once put in force, the law will directly contribute towards reducing social inequalities in the country and directly support Montenegro in achieving the Millennium Development Goals which is one of the country's obligations following the recent admission to the United Nations.

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UNDP in Montenegro promotes sustainable development, which is economically viable, socially inclusive and environmentally friendly.