APROVED
Minister
Svetlana CEBOTARI



MINUTES

of the „Communication Forum on the health issues"

September 12th, 2018

Venue: The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Moldova, Great Hall (IVth floor), 7, Constantin Tanase street, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

Date/Time: September 12th, 2018, 09:00 a.m.

Moderator: **Mrs. Svetlana CEBOTARI**, Minister of Health, Labour and Social Protection

Mrs. Tatiana IVANICICHINA, Secretary of State, Ministry of Finance

Mr. Haris HAJRULAHOVIC, WHO Representative in the Republic of Moldova

Participants:

Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection	Mrs. Svetlana Cebotari Mr. Boris Gilca Mrs. Aliona Serbulenco Mrs. Nelea Rusu Mr. Juozis Galdikas Mrs. Lilia Nita Mrs. Marcela Tirdea Mrs. Iulia Mihalachi Mrs. Ana Bucur Mrs. Tatiana Zatic Mrs. Lilia Gantea Mr. Valeriu Goncear Mr. Oleg Hincu

Ministry of Finance	Mrs. Tatiana Ivanicichina Mrs. Adreja Jerina Mrs. Iulia Ciumac Mrs. Irina Babuci Mrs. Natalia Caraus Mrs. Mariana Rotaru Mrs. Marina Semeniuc Mrs. Angela Cojocaru
SPHM	Mr. Oleg Lozan
IEM	Mr. Mihai Ciocanu
NHIC	Mr. Dumitru Parfentiev Mrs. Maria Lifciu Mr. Sergiu Negritu
CIMUP	Mr. Nicolae Jelamschi
HDCD	Mr. Igor Condrat
CEMP "Raisa Pacalo"	Mrs. Svetlana Cobilcanschi
PAS Center	Mr. Ghenadie Turcanu
WHO	Mr. Haris Hajrulahovic Mr. Andrei Matei
SDCA	Mrs. Caroline Tissot Mr. Valeriu Sava
European Union Delegation to Moldova	Mrs. Anzelika Oraite
UNICEF	Mrs. Margarita Tileva Mrs. Angela Capcelea Mrs. Cristina Gaberi
UNFPA	Mrs. Rita Columbia
UNAIDS	Mrs. Svetlana Plamadeala

UNDP	Mr. Alexandru Cocirta
IAEA	Mr. Ionel Balan
IOM	Mrs. Eugenia Ciubotaru
GIZ	Mr. Martin Kade
Embassy of Czech Republic in the Republic of Moldova	Mr. Jan Husak
Embassy of Hungary in Chisinau	Mrs. Daniel Verba
Embassy of Romania in Chisinau	Mr. Radu Filip
Embassy of Austria in Chisinau	Mrs. Lina Acalugaritei
Soros Fundation Moldova	Mrs. Svetlana Hangan

Distributed Agenda;

Materials: Presentations in Power Point format.

Meeting agenda:

- *"Sectoral Expenditure Strategy in the areas of health and social protection for the period of 2019-2021"*, Mrs. Svetlana Cebotari, Minister of Health Labour and Social Protection;

- *"Swiss Cooperation Strategy with the Republic of Moldova for the years 2018-2020 – health component"*, Mrs. Caroline Tissot, Country Director, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation;

- *"Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation concerning "Support to the reform of mental health services in Moldova" – second phase: 01.08.2018 – 31.07.2022"*, Mr. Valeriu Sava, National Program Officer in Health, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation;

- *"Current epidemiological situation of measles in the Republic of Moldova – measures taken by the Government and needs for support to strengthen measles prevention capacities"*, Mrs. Aliona Serbulenco, Secretary of state in the field of public health, Ministry of Health Labour and Social Protection;

SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION ACCORDING TO THE AGENDA

I. Opening meeting, welcoming remarks

Taking into account the fact that according to the provisions of the *Government Decision no. 377 of 25 April 2018 on the regulation of the institutional framework and the mechanism for the coordination and management of external assistance*, the Ministry of Finance became the only responsible body at the national level for the external assistance coordination and management mechanism and fulfills the unique role of contact/control in relation with external development partners and public authorities on project proposals/external assistance programs, the current "Communication Forum on the health issues" meeting was organized within the Ministry of Finance premises.

In this context, the meeting was opened by Mrs. Tatiana Ivanicichina, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Finance, as representative of the host institution for the meeting, as well as coordinating body at national level of the external assitance provided by the external partners to the Republic of Moldova.

Thus, Madame Secretary of State of the Ministry of Finance welcomed the audience and remarked the new roll of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Moldova beginning with the current year in coordination of the national external assistance, according to the new mechanism of the external assistance coordination aproved by the new normative framework, and namely the *Government Decision no. 377 of 25 April 2018*.

Therewith, Mrs. Ivanicichina wellcomed the existing in the health sector platform of discussions of external assistance priorities and expressed her hope that the other sectors will follow the same example. Also she noted that it was the first year when the Ministry of Finance tried to meet the external assistance needs with the Medium-Term Budgetary Framework (MTBF), identifing several necesities in different fields that is planned to be discussed with the donor community in the most efficient way.

Therefore, Madame Secretary of State of the Ministry of Finance gave the floor to Madame Minister Mrs. Svetlana Cebotari and further wished an effective discussion in the purpose of identifying needs in the health sector.

Madame Minister Svetlana Cebotari wellcomed all the participants at the meeting and thanked them for their presence and for the interest shown for this important quarterly organised event. Therewith, Madam Minister thanked the Ministry's of Finance Leadership fos hosting for the second time the „Communication Forum on health issues", organised by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection jointly with the WHO Country Office to the Republic of Moldova. Using that opportunity, Mrs. Cebotari expressed her appreciations for the continuous support provided by the external partners getting performance in the health sector of the Republic of Moldova.

Therefore, Madame Secretary of State of the Ministry of Finance thanked Madam Minister for her wellcome speech and gave the floor to the WHO Representative in the Republic of Moldova.

Mr. Haris Hajrulahovic wellcomed Madame Minister and the audience and thanked all the participants for their time to attend the current session of the „Communication Forum on health issues". He also expressed his pleasure to be present at the meeting and thanked Madame Minister for the leadership in co-chairing the meeting, as well as the Ministry of Finance representative for the initiative to organize these meetings within their institution. He also remarked that this was an important step to ensure the sustainability of programmes and projects which are initiated within the partnerships with international community and international donors. Therewith, Mr. Hajrulahovic noted that the WHO wellcomes the existing external assitance coordination mechanism in the health sector that helps to align the existing financial support to the necesities and initiatives of the country in line with the international framework and principles of transparency, effectiveness, etc.

Mrs. Secretary of State of the Ministry of Finance thanked the WHO Representative and proposed to proceed to the presentations' session according to the Agenda. In this context, the floor was past to the Minister of Health, Labour and Social Protection, Mrs. Svetlana Cebotari.

II. Presentations of subject

2.1. Presentation on "Sectoral Expenditure Strategy in the areas of health and social protection for the period of 2019-2021", Mrs. Svetlana Cebotari, Minister of Health Labour and Social Protection;

Mrs. Svetlana Cebotari started with the first subject from the Agenda of the meeting on the "Health Sector Expenditure Strategy in the areas of health and social protection for the period of 2019-2021", and mentioned that her presentation will focus on four

compartments, and namely: - public expenditure on health and social protection; - priorities of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection; - the Health Sector Expenditure Strategy for Health and Social Protection for the years 2019-2021; - new actions proposed under the priorities of the Sectoral Expenditure Strategy for 2019-2021; Therefore, regarding the public expenditure on health and social protection, Madam Minister noted that the evolution of public expenditure for the health sector over the years 2013-2018 registered an upward trend. Thus, as she mentioned, the financing of the health system involves several sources of funds collection. In this process, the major share of the total public health expenditures is paid for the Compulsory Health Insurance Funds. At the same time, according to the sub-programs of the Health Sector Expenditure Strategy, most of the financial resources executed for 2017 were traditionally directed towards the provision of hospital care services - 42.2%, followed by interventions in primary care - 26.2%, pre-hospital healthcare - 7.3%, national and special healthcare programs - 5.5%, public health - 2.7%, and high-performance medical services - 2.5% of resources.

Mrs. Cebotari also outlined that the following priorities were identified for the Health Sector Expenditure Strategy for the years 2019-2021: - reform of public health service; - control of communicable and non-communicable diseases; - development of emergency medical care; - modernization of primary health care; - reform of hospital care. In accordance with the Subprograms' Classification approved by the Ministry of Finance, the Health Sector Expenditure Strategy comprises 19 sub-programs, by priority intervention areas.

In the context, Madam Minister reminded that the MTBF for 2019-2021 was approved at the Government meeting from 20 August. According to this document, the medium-term expenditure estimates for the health sector were approved for the years 2018-2021. Thus, she described that out of 19 sub-programs of the health sector, according to estimates for the following years, there is a small increase for the Hospital Care Subprogram, especially for the provision of hospital care services. Also, the primary health care sub-program increased the estimated allocations for providing primary health care, including on the basis of performance indicators and ensuring that people have access to essential compensated medicines as well as access for people from vulnerable groups to contraceptives.

Hence, regarding the new proposed actions under the priorities of the Health Sector Expenditure Strategy for 2019-2021, Mrs. Cebotari specified:

1. For the priority *"Reform of public health service"*, the proposed action refers to strengthening the Public Health Service, including Performance Laboratories, which provides for the renovation of thermal insurance systems, endowment of

laboratories with laboratory equipment and furniture, repaired buildings for Public Health Centers, etc. For this purpose, for the period 2019-2021, financial resources amounting to 135.0 mill. MDL are needed. Regretfully, this measure is not foreseen in the approved MTBF;

2. For the next priority *"Control of communicable and non-communicable diseases"*, the proposed action consists in the development of national and special health programs. Of the total estimated needs for this action, the uncovered amount for the implementation of the Action Plans of the national and special programs is of 1 mill. 290 thousand 475, 3 MDL.
   Therefore, the biggest deficit for the years 2019-2021, is registered for the implementation of the National Cancer Control Program, amounting to 478, 2 mill. MDL and the Tuberculosis Control Program - 333.5 mill. MDL;

3. The following priority, namely the *"Modernization of Primary Health Care"*, includes three new proposed measures: - strengthening the technical-material basis of primary health care; - providing primary medical care with ambulances; - strengthening the management system.
   In order to carry out these actions within MTBF, the financial resources were estimated in the amount of 234 mill. MDL, but additional financial resources amounting to 212 mill. MDL are needed to implement these measures;

4. For the implementation of the priority *"Modernization of the hospital medical care"*, the following actions were proposed for financing: - creation of the Balti Central Hospital; - renovation and modernization of regional hospitals; - development of rehabilitation services; - development of modern medical services (modular transplantation, cardiac transplantation, cardiac interventions); - modernization of the radiotherapy service; - reengineering of the hospital sector; - developing Day Surgery Services.
   Regretfully, only for the modernization of the radiotherapy service, are foreseen financial resources from the National Public Budget, within MTBF for 2019-2021, the other actions remaining uncovered;

5. For *"Developing Emergency Medical Care"*, the new proposed action concerns the procurement of ambulances, for which 692 mill. MDL are needed. As Mrs. Cebotari mentioned, when the State Budget was rectified for 2018, 50 mill. MDL were provided for the procurement of ambulances. At the same time, due to the Project on the procurement of ambulances, with the support of the Council of Europe Development Bank will be granted a loan of about 248 mill. MDL, the contribution of the statute being of 31 mill. MDL.

Therewith, Madam Minister described the situation for the social protection sector and concluded that compared with the health sector, most of the new actions included in the Social Protection Sector Expenditure Strategy have been included in the Medium-term Budgetary Framework for 2019-2021 and are actions that have government financial coverage.

2.2. Presentation on "Swiss Cooperation Strategy with the Republic of Moldova for the years 2018-2020 – health component", Mrs. Caroline Tissot, Country Director, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation;

Mrs. Caroline Tissot continued with presentation of the Swiss Cooperation Strategy with the Republic of Moldova for the years 2018-2020, and namely the health component of cooperation. Thus, she affirmed that the main goal of the Strategy is to enhance the well-being of Moldova's population, with a special focus on the inclusion of excluded groups. In this context, Madame Tissot specified that the main priorities of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation are focused on local governance, economic development&employment and health.

Hence, Mrs. Tissot specified that for ensure the health priority, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation has proposed to ensure: - qualitative&affordable primary healthcare; - focus on prevention&health promotion; - services responsive to patient's needs and of the population in its diversity; - more responsibility towards own health; and – accountability for the provision of services. Therewith, as the SADC Moldova Country Director noted, the main goal of the Strategy is that men/boys and women/girls effectively enjoy essential healthcare services and act responsibly with regard to their own health. Thus, as expected outcomes she listed the following: - health institutions ensure equitable access to qualitative and affordable primary healthcare services, responsive to the user's needs, and with a focus on health promotion and disease prevention, and – men/boys and women/girls have increased health awareness, make healthier lifestyle choices, improve their healthcare-seeking behavior, and actively hold health institutions accountable for delivering quality services.

In the context of the mentioned, Madam Tissot noted that the SADC according to the new Strategy is going to support interventions regarding the: - policy and advocacy efforts; - providing technical assistance; - contributing to capacity strengthening; - facilitating the outreach activities targeting excluded population groups and underserved persons; - more effective inter-sectorial cooperation in addressing social determinants of health and health promotion; - facilitating the empowerment of users' groups and CSOs; - supporting transparency and accountability in health sector. Therewith, to achieve the proposed goals and objectives, the SADC Moldova Country Director highlighted the necessity of establishing and maintaining the close dialogue and cooperation with

MoHLSP, MoECR, and MoF, as well as partnerships with the WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, WB.

Mrs. Tissot underlined that the health domain portfolio contains 6 Program Projects in non-communicable diseases, mental health, adolescents' health, women health, mother and child health in Transnistria, health system strengthening.

Finally, the SADC Moldova Country Director concluded that the planned financial commitments according to the Strategy activities is of 46.9 million CHF for 2018-2021, from which for health has been allocated 33%, which means 15,4 million CHF.

2.3 Presentation on "Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation concerning "Support to the reform of mental health services in Moldova" – second phase: 01.08.2018 – 31.07.2022", Mr. Valeriu Sava, National Program Officer in Health, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation;

Mr. Valeriu Sava continued with presentation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation concerning "Support to the reform of mental health services in Moldova" second phase: 01.08.2018 – 31.07.2022. Thus, he started mentioning that the Project aims on ensuring adequate care and recovery for people with mental health problems from the Republic of Moldova. As outcomes to reach the Project's goal, Mr. Sava underlined: - providing a national network of mental health service providers at national level to ensure an equitable access to quality and affordable integrated services that meet the needs of users; - awareness by the Moldovan population of the importance of their own and other's mental health, improving their behaviour for mental health care and supporting social inclusion and recovery of people with mental health problems.

Therefore, Mr. Sava specified that for successful implementation of the project the Swiss side will contribute through ensuring appropriate training programs for medical and non-medical staff within multidisciplinary teams as well as information, education and communication activities for families and communities in all districts; services provided by international and local experts/consultants; implementation of the Project, including managed funds and operational costs. So, he underlined that the SADC contributes to the implementation of the Project with a total amount of 3'199'000.00 CHF through the Implementing Agency. At the same time, the Moldavian side has as commitments: - to lead the entire reform process; - to develop the appropriate legislative and regulatory framework; - to take the necessary measures to ensure the functioning of the Community mental health centers in all districts; - to establish the National Mental Health Center as a resource center with the capabilities to provide methodological and technical support for the entire Community mental health centers network and effective data monitoring; - to

facilitate the dialogue and cooperation with other ministries and civil society' organizations on integrated mental health services.

In conclusion, Mr. Sava mentioned that the project is implemented by the Trimbos Institute from Netherlands, with the local project implementing unit in Moldova (Trimbos-Moldova), and the implementation period of the second phase is of 4 years.

2.4 Presentation on "Current epidemiological situation of measles in the Republic of Moldova – measures taken by the Government and needs for support to strengthen measles prevention capacities", Mrs. Aliona Serbulenco, Secretary of state in the field of public health, Ministry of Health Labour and Social Protection;

Mrs. Aliona Serbulenco wellcomed Madam Minister and the audience and mentioned the alarming epidemic situation of measles in the country. Thus, Mrs. Secretary of state started with listing the international regulatory framework to which Moldova is part, and namely: - the Measles and Rubella Global Strategic Plan 2012-2020; - the European Vaccine Action Plan 2015–2020 (EVAP); and the National Immunization Program 2016-2020 which is based on these international acts. Therewith, Madam Serbulenco affirmed that in 2016 the Republic of Moldova was certified as free from measles and rubella country, considering that has not registered any cases of measles over the years. Thus, as she specified, for countries declared as free from measles each case represents a public health emergency and the only method of prophylaxis being vaccination with the MMR vaccine.

Therewith, she declared that the main rule is "the higher vaccine coverage, the lower measles morbidity" and this contributed to avoid the epidemiological situation recorded in 2002 when a mass vaccination campaign was carried out. The current year, due to the low vaccine coverage and other circumstances, till September there were registered 281 cases of measles from which 181 cases were confirmed by the Laboratory of the National Agency for Public Health, which is the only laboratory accredited by the WHO. In this context, Mrs. Secretary of state expressed concern about the need to fund the capacity building of the Laboratory, which was not provided for the priorities of the presented Budgetary Framework.

Returning to the epidemiological situation, Mrs. Serbulenco noted that among the causes that led to the worsening of the situation were the opposition to vaccination, Roma communities and families belonging to religious confessions. All these led to the extraordinary meeting being convened by the Prime Minister on 20th of August 2018. Using the existing Platform of communication, Madam Serbulenco thanked the WHO Country Office for the support provided to the health system for conducting a public health event risk assessment exercise for the first time in line with the WHO recommendations, and namely: assessment of the hazard, exposure and circumstances of the epidemiological situation in the country.

Further, Mrs. Secretary of state remarked that stopping the danger was also possible due to: - joint interventions between the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection and the Ministry of Education regarding the decision not to admit unvaccinated children to schools; - strong support and close cooperation with development partners such as WHO and UNICEF who mobilized to establish the responsibilities and concrete actions, development of the communication plan that is currently implemented through conducting communication campaigns on social networks; - the National Agency for Public Health has a 24-hour activity regime.

Concluding, Madam Serbulenco called the development partners to cooperation and reiterated the need for organizing a roundtable to discuss the international experience which would be at this stage more than ever useful and important for the health system of the Republic of Moldova. Finally, Mrs. Secretary of state thanked the audience for the attention.

III. Discussions

Therefore, Mrs. Secretary of State of the Minister of Finance, thanked all the speakers for the very important subjects presented and proposed to proceed to discussions' session giving the floor to Minister of Health, Labour and Social Protection, Mrs. Svetlana Cebotari.

Madame Minister declared the discussions session opened for proposals, opinions and questions.

Thus, Mr. Hajrulahovic thanked Madame Minister and would like to come with some brief comments on the subjects presented within the meeting. Hence, speaking about budgetary framework he recommended to set-up baseline indicators for programs (such as for example national programs for control of Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS) to be supported, which would demonstrate the importance of the financial support, allow to contribute transparently and to measure the progress.

Therewith, Mr. WHO Representative in the Republic of Moldova wellcomed Madam Caroline Tissot and emphasized the significant support provided by SADC to the health sector of the Republic of Moldova and the openess of the Moldova health system to the donor community and donor's support.

On the final subject regarding the immunization, Mrs. Hajrulahovic enfirmed that the WHO will continue to support along with other partners, the health system of Moldova in that regard.

Madame Minister thanked the WHO Repesentative and gave the floor to Mr. Oleg Lozan.

Mr. Lozan thanked Madame Minister and referring to the presentation of the Health Sector Expenditure Strategy in the areas of health and social protection for the period of 2019-2021 and in particularly to the health sector priorities mentioned, he remarked two of them, and namely the reform of the Public Health Surveillance State Service and the

communicable and non-communicable diseases control – which as he mentioned has an major impact on the entire society's public health. Therewith, referring the allocations of financial resources in the health sector for the period of 2019-2021, he considered as important to attract the attention, especially of the representatives of the Ministry of Finance on the percentage decrease of funding for national programmes from 6 to 4% in 2021 and for the public health surveillance state sector from 3% to 2%. In this context, he asked to examine the possibilities of reviewing the funding for health sector necessities.

Madame Minister thanked Mr. Oleg Lozan and gave the floor to Mr. Nicolae Jelamschi.

Mr. Jelamschi thanked Madame Minister and referring to the comments made by the WHO Representative to the Republic of Moldova, reminded about the Grant Agreement signed with the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for 2018-2020, through which the country has assumed large financial responsibilities for implementation of the National Programmes for control of HIV/AIDS and TB. Thus, he emphasized that according with the presented Sectoral Expenditure Strategy in the areas of health and social protection for the period of 2019-202, there were mentioned uncovered sources namely for both programmes, despite the fact that Republic of Moldova has assumed responsibilities of graduate increase the funding for the National Programmes for control of HIV/AIDS and TB. Moreover, he specified that these sources cannot be covered by donors as the country is required to demonstrate that is able to cover both Programmes. Therefore, Mr. Jelamschi asked to examine the possibilities of reviewing these aspects, noting that the Global Fund would otherwise diminish the funding it currently provides for our country.

Madame Minister thanked Mr. Nicolae Jelamschi and gave the floor to Mr. Ghenadie Turcanu.

Mr. Turcanu thanked Madame Minister and the speakers for the very intersting subjects presented. Therewith, reffering to the first presentation, he has been worried that most health measures are not totally covered by MTBF until 2021, which means about nine billion from the public budget planned for health sector. As he specified, a recent study achieved by the Expert Group showed that if the funding for health system will remain at the same level, then the health system risks going bankrupt in the years to come. Addressing to the external partners and the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Turcanu proposed as a real measure, that the Ministry of Finance to revise the possibilities of accruing more funds to the budget and accept a possible support from the external partners for the excise policy of various products that are harmful to health, such as alcohol, tobacco, etc. - sources which could bring additional finances to the budget that could be allocated as suplimentar resources for health care or other sectors of the national economy. This measure, in his view, could cover those areas that are not covered by the current MTBF. Otherwise, there is the risk of not implement more documents from the Government's Agenda, such as the Association Agreement which provides for a lot of measures related to public health, which implies that certain commitments will not be fulfilled by the Republic of Moldova towards the development partners, and eventually it will not succeed in improving the health of the population – one of the main tasks of the Government.

Further, the floor was passed to Mrs. Margarita Tilleva. Mrs. Tilleva thanked Madam Minister and congratulated the leaderships of the MHLSP and the Ministry of Finances with the new format of „Communication Forum on health issues". Also she emphasized that the presence of the representatives of the Ministry of Finances within the meetings of the health sector coordination forum was extremely important and she asked to keep this form of discussion in the future, including other stakeholders in order to ensure an intersectoral platform of discussions.

Madame Minister thanked Mrs. Margarita Tilleva and gave the floor to Mr. Valeriu Sava.

Mr. Sava added that starting from what Mrs Tilleva said and what was mentioned by the rapporteurs, he support the need for prioritization the aspects related to the intersectoral collaboration in all policies. Respectivelly, taking into account that it was declared the necessity to focus on health education, he proposed to involve other actors in the existing platform of discussions, and namely the representative from the Ministry of Education and Research, even representatives of confessions, especially in the context of the latest presentation on the epidemiological situation of measles in the country.

Therewith, he remarked that this meeting is an ideal platform to emphasize why a joint effort is needed to overcome all the problems facing the health system and the entire society.

Mrs. Cebotari thanked Mr. Sava for the suggestions and proposals and underlined that the MHLSP remains opened to any proposal and support and consider appropriate those ideas proposed by each of the participants.

Finally, Madame Minister thanked all the participants for attending the „Communication Forum on the health issues" and wondered to make some conclussions.

IV. Conclusions

In conclusion, Madame Minister emphasized that the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection fully support all the raised proposals and consider as appropriate to have a detailed report on each subprogram in order to identify the actions and technical measures to be taken where the support is needed, as well as to ensure the presence of all the stakeholders to strengthen the measures in achieving the proposed objectives.

At the same time, referring to reference indicators for the Government, Mrs. Cebotari specified that on each national program and action plan are approved the reference and result indicators to achieve the performance. Regarding the fields that are not covered by national programs, Madam Minister highlighted the need to have established clear tasks and measures of actions to achieve them, but therewith, she emphasized that the success depend on the financial coverage of expenditures that are necessary to achieve the proposed objectives.

Another important aspect, underlined by the Minister of Health, Labour and Social Protection was the existing efficient communication between the MHLSP and the Ministry of Finance regarding the possibilities of identifying the solutions and covering the financial gaps. And in this context, Madame Minister gave the floor to Mrs. Tatiana Ivanicichina, State secretary of the Ministry of Finance.

Mrs. State secretary of the Ministry of Finance confirmed the availability of the Ministry of Finance to examine, at the request of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, the possibilities of making some distributions or changes to the budget regarding the planned allocations.

Using this opportunity, Madam Minister mentioned also that the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, however, counts on joint actions to identify additional sources to cover at least partially, by 2019, the objectives and actions related to the health component, and that it is considered as appropriate and necessary to come with proposals of amendments to the budgetary framework.

To sum up, Mrs. Cebotari presented her gratitude to participants for attending the "Communication Forum on health issues" and noted that this Platform represents a valuable tool for the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection to discuss the measures taken, as well as, furthering priorities of the health system. Therefore, Madam Minister has once again emphasized the importance of external support and the concrete, tangible and necessary results for the health of the Moldovan population, achieved with joint efforts. Mrs. Cebotari also expressed her hope to continue to have this fruitful partnership with the health system's development partners.

Lilia Nita
Consultant on external assistance
WHO/Ministry of Health Labour and Social Protection