



Republic of Serbia  
Government  
Ministry of Justice  
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World Bank

Country Manager, Belgrade

- Mr. Stephen Ndegwa-

Belgrade, 25 September 2017

Dear Mr. Ndegwa,

As you would be aware, the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Justice Sector Support in Serbia (MDTF –JSS) has been providing valuable contributions to our efforts to strengthen the rule of law and align our performance with EU standards.

We are content with this form of support and wish to emphasize once again that the MDTF JSS offers a flexible mechanism for cooperation, as it is government-owned, responsive and produces good results. In addition, the Ministry of Justice, as the key beneficiary of the Grant Agreement, continues to consult other stakeholders in the justice sector with an aim to identify their needs and ensure the support through MDTF JSS.

In particular, it is necessary to consider that comprehensive reforms in the justice sector will continue, requiring ongoing expert support for their effective performance. In this process, the implementation of the Action Plans for Chapter 23 and Chapter 24 is of key importance, given the planned alignment of the normative framework with the EU *acquis*, and measures aimed at increasing administrative and institutional capacities in the sector. Moreover, Serbia will need to implement the recommendations of the follow up of the Judicial Functional Review which is about to commence, in order to align justice system performance with the EU standards.

Given the aforementioned reforms, the Ministry of Justice will need to have an efficient, well-based support mechanism to adequately correspond to these demands and monitor implementation of the reforms.

In light of these facts, it would be unfortunate for the MDTF –JSS to close in December 2018 before this important work is finalized. In our view, MDTF –JSS should continue providing support to the sector in the coming years to build on and leverage its good results, ensure their sustainability and increase visibility of this successful project.



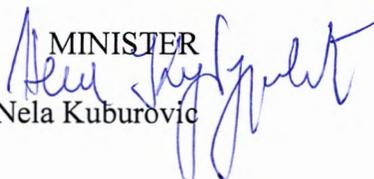
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Therefore, we kindly request the extension of the Grant Agreement for the MDTF-JSS beyond 2019. We should also join our efforts to secure additional contributions to the MDTF-JSS so that donors can work together in the interests of Serbia's EU integration effort.

We look forward to working with you and the MDTF-JSS in the years ahead.

Yours sincerely,

MINISTER  
  
Nela Kuburovic