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**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN THE SPECA REGION**

**STUDY COMMISSIONED BY UNECE**

**This study has been prepared by Ms. Aida Alzhanova, UNECE consultant, and issued without formal editing. The views in the document are those of the author and do not necessarily express the position of the UNECE.**

## Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....	4
2. Methodology .....	4
3. SDGs and targets on which the SPECA TWGs concentrate .....	4
3.1 Water, Energy, and Environment.....	4
3.2 Sustainable Transport.....	5
3.3 Trade.....	6
3.4. Knowledge-based Development .....	7
3.5. Gender and Economy .....	8
3.6. Statistics.....	9
4. Which other SDGs will be better implemented, if the above SDGs and targets will be achieved	10
4.1. Water, Energy, Environment .....	10
4.2. Sustainable Transport.....	10
4.3. Trade.....	11
4.4. Knowledge-Based Development .....	12
4.5. Gender and Economy .....	13
4.6. Statistics.....	13
5. National priority lists of SDGs.....	13
5.1 Afghanistan.....	14
5.2 Azerbaijan.....	15
5.3 Kazakhstan.....	16
5.4 Kyrgyzstan .....	18
5.5 Tajikistan.....	20
5.6 Turkmenistan.....	22
5.7 Uzbekistan .....	24
6. Related supporting work by development partners .....	26
7. List of SDG targets that can be better achieved through subregional cooperation in SPECA .....	30
8. Recommendations.....	31
9. Conclusion .....	32
10. Annexes .....	34
Annex I: Matrix of SDGs and the focus of SPECA’s work.....	34
Annex II: Digital Library .....	37
Annex III: The Sustainable Development Goals and Targets.....	40

## Acronyms and abbreviations

ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
AP-IS	Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway
CAREC	Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia
CAREC	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program (created by ADB in 1997)
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CER	Certified Emissions Reductions
CESDRR	Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EC	European Commission
ECTD	Economic Cooperation and Trade Division of UNECE
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
EurAsEC	Eurasian Economic Community
EU	European Union
FPOS	Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
KBD	Knowledge-Based Development
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
NSO	National Statistical Office
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organization
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SPECA	United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia
TWGs	Thematic Working Groups
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Teams
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDG	UN Development Group
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNRCs	United Nations Regional Commissions
UNRCCA	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
WB	World Bank
WG-TBC	Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing
WSIS	World Summit on the Information Society
WTO	World Trade Organization

## 1. Introduction

This study aims at analyzing the links between (1) the work on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the national frameworks of the countries participating in the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)<sup>1</sup> and (2) the areas in which it will be beneficial for these countries to collaborate within the framework of SPECA. The six SPECA Thematic Working Groups (WGs) will support this work within their mandates and expertise. The study will also map what UN organizations and main development partners are doing in support of implementing the SDGs, and identify areas for potential subregional cooperation. The analysis will lead to policy recommendations on how sub regional cooperation in SPECA may support to progress towards SDG implementation.

## 2. Methodology

Based on desk research and the results of a survey distributed among SPECA government agencies and UN Country Teams (UNCTs), the study follows the following logical order (the sections of the study):

- (a) Which SDGs and targets the SPECA Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) decided to focus on?
- (b) If those SDGs and targets are achieved, this will affect the achievement of which other SDGs?
- (c) Identify national lists of priority SDGs and targets. How do they relate to the TWG lists?
- (d) What do development partners do to help the achievement of the relevant SDGs?
- (e) Identify a list of SDGs/targets that can be better achieved through subregional cooperation.
- (f) What can the SPECA TWGs feasibly do to support the achievement of these SDGs?

For UNECE, the potential risks for the successful SDG implementation in Central Asia stem from: insufficient financial resources; lack of integrated approach, intersectoral coordination and concerted efforts of all stakeholders at the national level; lack of subregional cooperation; insufficient political commitment towards some SDGs and targets; and marginalization of some SDG targets.

## 3. SDGs and targets on which the SPECA TWGs concentrate

At the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the SPECA Governing Council (Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 11 November 2015) representatives of SPECA participating countries adopted a Declaration reiterating their commitment to the Programme as a platform for promoting cooperation in the SPECA subregion, and achieving sustainable development.<sup>2</sup> This Declaration suggests making the SPECA framework a platform to support progress towards achieving many of the SDGs through the exchange of best practice, capacity-building, joint development and implementation of regional projects, and sharing of experiences on the use of new financial mechanisms and partnerships. With this objective in mind, starting from 2016, the SPECA Project Working Groups were converted into Thematic Working Groups (TWG) on: Water, Energy, and Environment; Sustainable Transport, Transit, and Connectivity; Trade; Knowledge-based Development; Gender and Economy; and Statistics. At its 11<sup>th</sup> session (Ganja, 23 November 2016), the Governing Council welcomed "the strengthening cooperation between SPECA, the Regional UN Development Group for Europe and Central Asia, UN Country Teams in the SPECA countries, and UN and other international organizations, supporting progress towards the achievement of SDGs through enhanced subregional cooperation and towards enhanced economic cooperation in the SPECA subregion."

### 3.1 Water, Energy, and Environment

At its session on 20-21 October 2016, in Baku, the SPECA WG on Water, Energy, and Environment adopted its Work Programme for 2016-2017, covering ongoing and planned projects. The participants emphasized that SPECA countries need to develop mutual trust and cooperation in the water and energy

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<sup>1</sup> The SPECA participating countries are Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

<sup>2</sup> [https://undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/SPECA\\_Declaration.pdf](https://undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/SPECA_Declaration.pdf)

sectors. They noted the huge potential of the WG to facilitate the achievement of several SDGs in the SPECA countries.<sup>3</sup>

Regarding the future role of the WG, the meeting agreed to:

- Provide a platform for supporting progress towards achieving SDGs with a focus on the SDGs directly related to water, energy, and environment (including, but not limited to, SDG 6 and SDG 7). For building up cooperation among SPECA countries, targets 6.5, 7.1 and 7.2<sup>4</sup> are highly relevant. The main instrument for this support is the SPECA Work Plan for 2016-2017.
- Improve awareness of SPECA countries on the water-, energy- and environment-related SDGs, provide information and share best practice experiences regarding the implementation of these SDGs, including considering interlinkages between the SDGs.
- Become a platform for identification and coordination of technical and economic issues within the scope of the WG's competence. This might further promote strengthening of mutual trust at the political level.

More specifically, the WG concluded that:

- SDG 6 and SDG 7 are very closely interlinked, an intersectoral approach to implementing the SDGs, conscious of the interlinkages, synergies, and trade-offs, is necessary.
- While developing their National Action Plans to meet SDG 6 and SDG 7, SPECA countries should pay attention to transboundary impacts and to energy and water cooperation opportunities, and consider the potential impact on the country's energy resources, food production and the environment.
- In some countries fossil fuel will continue to be a major energy source. Other countries will rely on their hydropower potential. Clean coal technologies, broader use of renewable sources of energy, and increase of hydropower capacities can make a significant contribution towards increasing sustainability.
- The conjunctive operation of thermal power plants and hydropower plants has good merits. This can become a feasible option for transboundary cooperation to achieve sustainable power supply. It could be enhanced through strategic partnerships with all stakeholders, including the governments, international development partners, funding agencies/banks and the private sector.
- The WG took notice of outcomes of the Workshop on Challenges and Prospects for Regional Electricity Cooperation and Trade in Central Asia and the Caucasus. It recommended incorporating electricity interconnection issues in SPECA countries in the Work Plan for 2016-2017.
- The WG endorsed the work of ESCAP on capacity-building and monitoring of progress made by SPECA countries towards sustainable energy development, along with tracking of the existing regulatory framework.
- Following up on the Syr Darya nexus assessment, the WG included in the SPECA Work Plan for 2016-2017 identification and evaluation of possible measures for more sustainable use of water and energy resources, as well as exchange of experience on such measures and on intersectoral coordination. Following up on the conclusions of the 7<sup>th</sup> International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, the WG will explore, with the assistance of UNECE, ESCAP and relevant partners, how to consider opportunities offered by renewable energy generation and the efficient use and protection of water resources and the environment while developing energy policies and investment plans.

### 3.2 Sustainable Transport

The WG on Transport and Border Crossing (TWG-TBC) focused on developing new and extending existing transport networks in the region, as well as implementing projects and programs to support the

<sup>3</sup> UNECE & ESCAP – United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). 20<sup>th</sup> session of the SPECA Working Group on Water, Energy, and Environment Report. (Baku, Azerbaijan, 20-21 October 2016)

<sup>4</sup> For the text of all SDGs and targets, please refer to Annex III.

landlocked countries in Central Asia.<sup>5</sup> The SPECA Governing Council decided in November 2015 to rename the Group into “Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity” (WG-STTC) with new objectives added in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The WG will:

- Support the efforts of the participating countries to implement the 2030 Development Agenda by enhancing the sustainability of transport;
- Ensure more focus on those efforts which would result in strengthening regional cooperation aimed at achieving transport related SDGs;
- Serve as a forum for inland transport stakeholders to discuss strategic issues, to exchange experiences, lessons learned and good practice, as well as for national and subregional efforts in transport sector related to increasing sustainability of transport and achieving SDGs;
- Develop and implement transport projects, when possible, in line with relevant SDGs and targets to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda.

The transport sector has direct influence on the following SDGs and targets:

**SDG 3.** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (Road Safety)

Target 3.6. By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

**SDG 7.** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all (Energy efficiency)

Target 7.3. By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency

**SDG 9.** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation (Sustainable infrastructure)

Target 9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all

**SDG 11.** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable (Sustainable (urban) transport for all)

Target 11.2. By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities, and older persons

**SDG 12.** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (Fuel subsidies)

Target 12.c Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities

### 3.3 Trade

The SPECA WG on Trade (WG-Trade) supports trade policy cooperation and trade facilitation among the SPECA countries. The primary goal of trade facilitation is to help make trade across borders (imports and exports) faster, and cheaper and more predictable, whilst ensuring its safety and security. In terms of focus, it is about simplifying and harmonizing formalities, procedures, and the related exchange of information and documents between the various partners in the supply chain. All SPECA countries are willing to enhance their trade relationships with partners both inside and outside the subregion.

The WG-Trade decided at its 10<sup>th</sup> session (Ashgabat, May 2016) to concentrate on three targets of:

**SDG 17** (Partnerships for the Goals), which aim at strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing global partnership for sustainable development in trade.

Target 17.10. Several SPECA participating countries are already addressing together target 17.10: promoting the universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory, and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under the

<sup>5</sup> United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) – Thematic Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity (TGW-STTC). 21<sup>st</sup> session – 7-8 September 2016. Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

Doha Development Agenda. SPECA, in cooperation with the WTO, GIZ, and other partners, helps the countries exchange best practice experiences, harmonize their policies, and further cooperate in the process of accession to the WTO, as well as further negotiations and implementation of their obligations. Notably, assistance is provided on the new WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation, which came into force on 22 February 2017. WTO Members and acceding countries in Central Asia face serious issues in preparing the implementation of this Agreement.

Target 17.11 aims at significantly increasing the share of developing countries in global exports by 2020. Efforts to remove obstacles to mutual trade, including through trade facilitation, with assistance from UNECE, ESCAP, and other partners, regulatory harmonization, and the implementation of international agricultural quality standards will significantly enhance the capacity of SPECA countries to reform and reach this target.

Finally, target 17.12 urges for aims at realizing timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for least developed countries (LDCs), consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access. This target concerns Afghanistan as a beneficiary, as the only LDC among the SPECA countries, but it also asks the other SPECA countries to provide preferential treatment to goods from Afghanistan.

### 3.4. Knowledge-based Development

UNECE and ESCAP support the SPECA Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (WG on KBD), which draws on previous work under the SPECA Project Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies for Development (PWG on ICT).<sup>6</sup> In line with the overall objectives of SPECA to support its participating countries in developing subregional cooperation, and integrating their economies into the world economy, the WG shall:

- promote and support policies on knowledge-based development in the member countries;
- facilitate cooperation in the initiatives related to knowledge-based development between the member countries and other regional initiatives;
- support and coordinate capacity-building and institutional strengthening activities and programmes related to knowledge-based development in the member countries;
- serve as a forum for discussion on issues related to knowledge-based development, including information and communication technologies (ICT) related policy and regulatory issues.

At the eighth session of the SPECA WG on KBD (Almaty, 22 September 2016), a survey of participants indicated a view that the SPECA WG on KBD should be oriented towards the achievement of SDGs 8 and 9, with the terms of reference of the SPECA WG on KBD also including important work relating to SDGs 13 and 17. More specifically, it may focus on the following goals and targets:

**SDG 8:** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Target 8.2. Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors

Target 8.3. Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

Target 8.4. Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead

**SDG 9:** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Target 9.1. Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/SPECA/documents/kdb/2012/Revised\\_ToR\\_En.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/SPECA/documents/kdb/2012/Revised_ToR_En.pdf)

Target 9.3. Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets

Target 9.4. By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities

Target 9.5. Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending

Target 9.a. Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to... least developed countries, landlocked developing countries...

Target 9.b. Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities

Target 9.c. Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020.

**SDG 13:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (Climate change)

Target 1. Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

Target 3. Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

**SDG 17:** Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (Partnerships for the Goals)

*Multi-stakeholder partnerships*

Target 1. Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

Target 2. Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

### 3.5. Gender and Economy

UNECE supports the SPECA WG on Gender and Economy (WG-GE). Key priority areas for the effective and coherent implementation of the UNECE Gender Policy include gender mainstreaming as a key strategy at sectoral and cross-sectoral levels, gender and economy as a specifically targeted range of actions, organizational culture and gender parity, accountability, building capacity, and working in partnership.<sup>7</sup> Activities supporting gender mainstreaming, including in the SPECA framework, include: providing guidance to UN member States by bringing the gender perspective to the forefront through policy analysis, expert group meetings, documentation for intergovernmental bodies, workshops and conferences, development of norms and regulations, and monitoring of their implementation, collection, use and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data.

The WG-GE decided to exchange information on best practices in gender-transformative policies for achieving gender equality in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, focusing on SDG 5 and mainstreaming gender in those SDGs, which are related to the country's priorities. At its meeting on 27 February 2017, the WG-GE selected the following SDGs for its work:

**SDG 5** (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), in particular targets 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5, 5a, 5b, and 5c.

With regard to the gender dimension/mainstreaming gender in other SDGs, the following targets were selected:

**SDG 1** (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), targets 1.4 and 1.b

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/publication/UNECE\\_Policy\\_on\\_GEEW\\_July\\_2016\\_NEW\\_Final.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/publication/UNECE_Policy_on_GEEW_July_2016_NEW_Final.pdf)



**SDG 4** (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all) targets 4.4, 4.5 and 4.7

**SDG 8** (Decent work and economic growth), targets 8.3, 8.5, 8.8 and 8.10.

**SDG 9** (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), targets 9.1, 9.3 and 9c.

**SDG 10** (Reduce inequality within and among countries), targets 10.2, 10.3 and 10.4.

### 3.6. Statistics

Statistics development for monitoring achievement of the Goals is a central component of the means of implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda. Data and statistics requirements are challenging for all countries, and building national statistical capacity is an essential step towards fulfilling these requirements. SDG targets 17.18 and 17.19 stipulate national statistical capacity-building with the aim of increasing not only availability of statistics at national and subnational levels but also their quality, especially timeliness, as a necessary means of implementation for the entire development agenda.<sup>8</sup>

The 11<sup>th</sup> session of the WG reviewed:

a) Progress in developing indicators for the SDGs

The UNECE presented the ongoing work under the Conference of European Statisticians to support member States to meet the challenges of SDG data requirements. SPECA countries presented national progress, issues, and priorities. SPECA countries are currently able to provide between 26% and 43% of the data required.

The WG identified three main priorities at the institutional level:

- How can national statistical organizations ensure effective cross-government coordination to ensure SDG data requirements are met to the greatest extent possible? Participants agreed to exchange further experiences and good practices on this topic. The WG will continue working on it.
- How to manage demands for disaggregation of data by many different dimensions (age, gender, disability, geography, etc.)? UNECE will organize specific workshops on this issue under the UN Development Account 10<sup>th</sup> tranche project in the area of statistics.
- How to ensure an effective flow of information about good practices, so that national statistical organizations can learn from the experiences of others? The SPECA WG on Statistics will remain an important forum for this exchange. The wider activities of the Conference of European Statisticians to develop a road map for developing official statistics for SDGs will be used.

b) Implementation of international recommendations for statistical business registers

The WG fosters the implementation of Statistical Business Registers, following UNECE's Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers and the best practices of developed countries.

c) Priorities for future technical cooperation activities in the SPECA subregion

The 11<sup>th</sup> session of the WG on Statistics indicated that support for implementation of the SDG indicators remains the top priority for technical cooperation activities in the SPECA subregion. Other priority topics include the development of agricultural registers, and implementation of the 2008 version of the System of National Accounts (to be covered by a World Bank-UNECE project from 2017). In 2017, the SPECA WG on Statistics will focus on progress in the implementation of the SDG indicators – due to rapidly evolving priorities, the exact focus of this topic will be determined nearer the time, to ensure maximum relevance for participating countries.

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<sup>8</sup> ESCAP : Considerations in strengthening national statistical capacity and readiness for monitoring the SDGs in SPECA member states. Ganja, Azerbaijan, 22-23 November 2016

## 4. Which other SDGs will be better implemented, if the above SDGs and targets will be achieved

This section seeks to identify the implementation of which SDGs will be positively affected, if the SPECA countries are successful in achieving the SDGs and targets identified for subregional work by the Thematic Working Groups, as identified above.

### 4.1. Water, Energy, Environment

If the SDGs identified by the WG on Water, Energy, and the Environment for the focus of its work (SDG 6: target 6.5; and SDG 7: target 7.1 & 7.2) will be achieved, with significant input through subregional cooperation, this will have substantively positive impact on the achievement of:

- SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact, and thus prevent the serious influence of climate changes in Central Asia;
- SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. Notably, help the preservation of the Aral and Caspian Seas and their resources; and
- SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

### 4.2. Sustainable Transport

Combined efforts to improve transport through harmonized regulatory procedures, implementation of relevant transport conventions (like TIR), simplified administrative procedures (e.g. introduction of single windows) and capacity building would therefore greatly help the Central Asian countries to take on this new role as emerging center for transit transport and trade.

Implementation of identified by this WG SDGs will have positive impact on achievement of the following:

- SDG 8, target 8.8: Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment;
- SDG 9, 9.a Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.  
9.b Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities.  
9.c Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020.
- SDG 12, target 12.3: By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.
- SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact, and thus prevent the serious influence of climate change in Central Asia. Target 13.1 (Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries) and 13.2 (integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning).;
- SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, targets 17.1, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10, 17.16, 17.17 and 17.18  
Targets:  
17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.  
17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing

mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.

- 17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed.
- 17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology.
- 17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.
- 17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda.
- 17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries.
- 17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.
- 17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

The WG on Sustainable Transport, Transit, and Connectivity will explore the possibilities for preparation of analytical paper how regional transport cooperation within the SPECA framework could contribute to SPECA countries in achievement of SDG's. The findings should be incorporated in the SPECA TWG Programme of Work 2018-2019 to be approved at the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the WG-STTC in 2017.

### 4.3. Trade

Regional cooperation in trade and the inclusion of the SPECA subregion into the global rules-based trading system are preconditions for significant improvements in trade and connectivity in the SPECA subregion, but also for the introduction of trade rules aligned with the need for sustainable development. Furthermore, the development of regional trade and integration in the world market will significantly improve the capacity of the landlocked SPECA countries to address the economic SDGs. If the SDG targets identified by the WG on trade (SDG 17.10 and SDG 17.11) are realized, this will have substantively positive impact on the achievement of the following SDGs:

- **SDG 1** (“End poverty in all its forms everywhere”);
- **SDG 8** (“Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”);
- **SDG 9** (“Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”);
- **SDG 16** (“Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies”); and
- the remaining targets of **SDG 17** (“Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development”).

The geography of Central Asia poses serious challenges to trade. The countries are landlocked, and cooperation among them should be an advantage. Yet a number of political and other factors discourage such cooperation in trade. These problems represent obstacles to achieving **SDG 8** and **SDG 17**. Further improvement of trade relations within the subregion and connecting it to the world market are necessary. Consensus on trade policies among the countries would help them address more efficiently the

difficulties faced by landlocked countries.<sup>9</sup> Complex trade policies, poor transport conditions, border delays, visa requirements, lack of transparency, and other obstacles to cross-border trade cause excessive costs.<sup>10</sup> Trade has the potential of enhancing the structural economic transformation necessary for the achievement of SDGs 1, 8, 9, 16, and 17.

It is crucial for landlocked countries to export higher-value and low-bulk goods, thus buttressing the manufacturing, agriculture, and service sectors.<sup>11</sup> Development in these areas relies on science and advanced technology, which depend on national policies and international support. These measures increase revenue and reduce the bulk of primary exports,<sup>12</sup> thereby assisting several targets within **SDG 8** and **SDG 17**. They also help to create better-paying jobs. Since production in most Central Asia's export sectors builds on capital-intensive production technologies, export growth does not automatically lead to commensurate employment growth.<sup>13</sup> Yet if the Central Asian countries work together to promote trade in labor-intensive sectors, they can create employment and decent work for all (**SDG 8.5**). This would ultimately assist goal **SDG 1** ("End poverty in all its forms everywhere"), as trade has the potential of becoming the engine for growth and development in Central Asia. Enhanced regional trade, trade facilitation and connecting the SPECA countries to the international rules-based trading system significantly improve the sound institutional foundation of Central Asian societies and States, thus contributing significantly to the achievement of SDG 16 b, and leading to sustainable growth and development (**SDG 17**).

#### 4.4. Knowledge-based Development

In addition to SDGs 8, 9, 13 and 17 marked in section 3.4 above, the work of the WG on KBD fosters sustainable development in practically all areas of the SDGs. Innovation can make a difference in addressing urgent challenges for sustainable development, such as providing access to drinking water, eradicating diseases or reducing hunger.<sup>14</sup> Innovation for development is about identifying more effective solutions, which add value for people affected by development. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires deliberate, calculated investments in testing new ways of triggering change<sup>15</sup>.

More specifically, the achievement of goals and targets noted in section 3.4, through assistance from the SPECA WG on KBD, can help achieve the following goals as well:

**SDG 1:** End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Target 1.4. By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.

**SDG 4:** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

**SDG 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Target 5.b. Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.

**SDG 11:** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

<sup>9</sup> The 2010 Report on the MDGs in Europe and Central Asia specifically mentions the difficulties of the countries in Central Asia to achieve **MDG Target 8.C** ("Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States"): Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were among the countries where customs clearance was the most complicated and time consuming. UNECE, The MDGs in Europe and Central Asia: Achievement, Challenges and the Way Forward, 2010, p.99

<sup>10</sup> UNDP, Central Asia Human Development Report, 2005, p.3

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., p.19

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> UNDP, Trade and Human Development Report, 2014, p.13

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.oecd.org/sti/inno/50586251.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> [http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/innovation/IF%202015%20Report%20For%20Web%20final\(1\).pdf](http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/innovation/IF%202015%20Report%20For%20Web%20final(1).pdf)

## 4.5. Gender and Economy

Progress in women's economic advancement is especially relevant for countries in Central Asia, Afghanistan and Azerbaijan, where women's economic position has been deteriorating in recent years. The SPECA Working Group on Gender and Economy raises awareness on the interdependence between gender and economy through sharing good practices in mainstreaming gender in economic policies, policy-oriented research and projects, as well as developing cross-sectoral linkages and synergies with other relevant areas of the SPECA activities. Gender equality is an issue crosscutting through all SDGs, and gender equality will help achieve all SDGs.

As noted in section 3.5, with regard to the gender dimension of SDGs and mainstreaming gender in SDGs other than SDG 5, the following targets were selected:

**SDG 1** (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), targets 1.4 and 1.b;

**SDG 4** (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all) targets 4.4, 4.5 and 4.7;

**SDG 8** (Decent work and economic growth), targets 8.3, 8.5, 8.8 and 8.10;

**SDG 9** (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), targets 9.1, 9.3 and 9.c; and

**SDG 10** (Reduce inequality within and among countries), targets 10.2, 10.3 and 10.4.

## 4.6. Statistics

The objective of the SPECA WG on Statistics is to help improve the overall capacity of the statistical systems of SPECA countries, and this would help them significantly in reviewing and measuring progress in the achievement of all SDGs in the SPECA countries. Monitoring the SDGs requires mobilization of all parts of a national statistical system producing official statistics as well as cooperation from private data producers. For the production and dissemination of official statistics that are in line with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPOS) and conform to international quality assurance frameworks, coordination between the user community (policy makers, academia, non-governmental organizations, private sector, and media, etc.) and producers of official statistics is crucial. Regarding SDG monitoring, both the producer and the user communities have grown larger. The coordination function in these processes ideally belongs to national statistical offices (NSO).

In all SPECA participating countries, the legal framework for the sound statistical system exists, but in most cases a revision of the legislation needs to take place to ensure that it is in line with the FPOS and that NSOs can work with an enlarged group of stakeholders, including with private data producers. A national strategy for the development of statistics (NSDS) or a statistical master plan, which defines development priorities, are building blocks of coordination of official statistics producers. NSDSs are in place for all SPECA countries except Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. These two countries and Afghanistan are the only SPECA countries that have not had a Global Assessment of their national statistical systems. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the prioritization of the SDGs in the countries will necessarily involve a mapping of the global goals to the national development plans. Ideally, national strategies for the development of statistics or statistical master plans would ensure that the indicators required for monitoring the national policy framework, including the SDGs, would be produced.

## 5. National priority lists of SDGs

The SPECA countries are committed to contribute to the Agenda 2030, and benefit from the new SDGs. However, each country pursues goals focused on its own priorities. The overview below highlights priorities in each country, in areas relevant to this paper's subregional approach, or areas in which SPECA is active.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Please, also kindly refer to Annex 1

## 5.1 Afghanistan

Afghanistan was the latest country to join SPECA in 2005, and is the only Least developed Country participating in the Programme. It has benefitted from SPECA infrastructure development initiatives, and the Almaty Declaration of Land-Locked and Transit Developing Countries of 2003. In December 2014, the SPECA Economic Forum entitled “Improving Connectivity: a key contribution of SPECA to the success of the Transformation Decade of Afghanistan” took place in Ashgabat under the chairmanship of Afghanistan.

Afghanistan plans to take part in the 2017 National Voluntary Review of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development, scheduled to take place from 10 until 19 July 2017 in New York under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The theme will be "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world". The set of SDGs to be reviewed in depth will include SDGs 1 (end poverty), 2 (end hunger, achieve food security, improved nutrition, and sustainable agriculture), 3 (ensure healthy lives and well-being for all), 5 (gender equality), 9 (resilient infrastructure, sustainable industrialization, and innovation), 14 (sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources), and 17 (strengthen implementation and partnerships).<sup>17</sup>

Following up on paragraph 79 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Afghanistan will conduct “a regular and inclusive review of progress”, which is “country-led and country-driven” (paragraphs 79 and 84) at the national level. These reviews shall provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major relevant stakeholders. The voluntary national reviews (VNRs) aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including success stories, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The national reviews are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the high-level political forum (HLPF), meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC.<sup>18</sup>

### SDGs

Afghanistan is working its way to develop sustainable energy practices by promoting the use of solar panels and wind turbines to provide electricity to over 36,000 households in many Afghan provinces through the National Area-Based Development programme. In order to achieve a successful start of developing and implementing a climate-change mitigation agenda, all targets of SDG 13 on climate action are taken into consideration.

Priority SDGs for Afghanistan are: eliminating hunger (SDG 2) through sustainable environmental practices, including providing clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), affordable and clean energy sources (SDG 7), responsible production and consumption (SDG 13), maintaining biodiversity and sustainable practices on land (SDG 15), and attracting foreign aid and partnership to achieve these goals (SDG 17). The major priority for Afghanistan and its economy is SDG 8, notably, the provision of foreign aid to provide decent work and economic growth.<sup>19</sup>

According to Afghanistan’s national development strategy, there have been significant achievements in building sustainable infrastructure and the use of information and communications technology (ICT)<sup>20</sup>. The goal is to develop an e-Afghanistan programme and to improve ICT literacy via expanding internet literacy and providing Internet access coverage to all areas of the country<sup>21</sup>. This points out to the necessity to build the necessary infrastructure, as stated in SDG 9 on industry, innovation, and

<sup>17</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2017>

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Implementing Agenda 2030 – Priorities and Challenges for Afghanistan, UNDP Seminar, May 2016.

<http://www.daghammarskjold.se/event/implementing-agenda-2030-priorities-challenges-afghanistan/>

<sup>20</sup> Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (2017-2021) p. 14

<sup>21</sup> A digital agenda for development and social change 2015-2024, MCIT of IRA <http://mcit.gov.af/Content/files/Draft-ICT%20Policy%20Document.pdf> p.4

infrastructure, targets 9.5: enhance scientific research and provide technological capabilities, as well as target 9.b: support local technology, research, and innovation development in developing countries.<sup>22</sup> ICT infrastructure development needs regional cooperation; without it, transborder exchange of data would be very difficult.

The report of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) highlights the presence of severe gender inequalities in the subregion. To decrease these inequalities and set up a basis for further economic development, Afghanistan needs to improve the educational system and ensure universal access to knowledge, as stipulated in SDG 4, which aims at ensuring educational opportunities for all. Consequently, improvement on such a systemic issue as gender equality and empowerment of women and girls would help achieve all the targets in SDGs 5, 8, 9, and 10. Thus priority goals in terms of the gender equality agenda are SDGs 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 10.

## 5.2 Azerbaijan

Despite significant success in other development areas, Azerbaijan still encounters unresolved environment-related issues. For example, the targets of SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation are a priority for both Azerbaijan and its neighbouring States, as an urgent matter for sustainable development.

The main source of Azerbaijan's economic prosperity are its natural resources, notably oil. However, the Government wants to accelerate the use of alternative energy, institutional environment developed, the scientific and technical potential reinforced, personnel training strengthened, and awareness campaigns carried out for energy consumers<sup>23</sup>. This corresponds to the SDG 7 targets on building the capacities for renewable energy sources and diversification of the economy to meet these targets.

Azerbaijan is willing to take measures to preserve biodiversity, neutralize the adverse environmental impact of the fuel and energy sector, eliminate the pollution of the sea and water resources, restore green areas, and effectively protect the available resources. Therefore, all targets of SDGs 13 and 14, on life below water and life on land, apply since the Government is willing to commit to their implementation and engage with partners to improve the situation in these areas.

Azerbaijan is engaging in the agenda of SDG 12 to combat the developments affecting adversely environmental sustainability. As Azerbaijan's environmental agenda relates to other issues of sustainable development, the country needs assistance as a developing country to attain long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at enhanced debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate. Target 17.4 of SDG 17 addresses the problems related to external debt. Its achievement may reduce the stress from high debt, mainly through partnership for achieving sustainable development and the SDGs.

Azerbaijan will take part in the 2017 National Voluntary Review of the High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of ECOSOC from 10 until 19 July 2017 in New York. The theme will be "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world". The set of SDGs to be reviewed in depth will include SDGs 1 (end poverty), 2 (end hunger, achieve food security, improved nutrition, and sustainable agriculture), 3 (ensure healthy lives and well-being for all), 5 (gender equality), 9 (resilient infrastructure, sustainable industrialization, and innovation), 14 (sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources), and 17 (strengthen implementation and partnerships).<sup>24</sup>

As Afghanistan, Azerbaijan will conduct, following up on paragraph 79 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, "a regular and inclusive review of progress" in implementing the SDGs, which is "country-led and country-driven" (paragraphs 79 and 84) at the national level. The review shall provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major relevant stakeholders;

<sup>22</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg9>

<sup>23</sup> Development concept, p. 11

<sup>24</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2017>

facilitate the sharing of experiences, successes, challenges and lessons learned; strengthen government policies and institutions. It is expected to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs.<sup>25</sup> Paragraph 79 also invites countries to carry out regular reviews on sub-regional level, and SPECA countries may be encouraged to do a subregional review.

## SDGs

The national priorities of Azerbaijan focus on SDGs 8, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17 (notably, target 17.4).

Azerbaijan is committed to work on the problems of migration through “contextualization”, considering existing social and economic contexts. The Government plans to improve the infrastructure and economic conditions to the benefit of its people, and to increase the institutional capacity to pursue this aim.

A strategic objective for Azerbaijan is to become a regional trade centre, using the country’s strategic geographical location, develop transit and transport services, and establish logistical centres in the districts. The UNCT in Azerbaijan calls for strategic investments for the enhancement of trade. Azerbaijan expects to reap benefits from expanding global trade and globalization. The main SDGs applicable to Azerbaijan’s vision for trade development are SDGs 8, 10, and 17. This would also enhance the country’s attractiveness as a production and investment centre and open new business and employment opportunities. The management of local and international transport would improve. The country’s transport system would integrate better into the expanded international network. To meet these goals Azerbaijan pursues targets 9.1 of SDG 9 on industry, innovation, and infrastructure to promote trans-boundary infrastructure between the countries, and to strengthen trade relationships.

Innovation is a core part of Azerbaijan’s economic and development agenda. The drive towards innovation occupies a central role in plans for improving the education system and healthcare, in support of sustainable development in the country. This approach has played an important role in building consensus for policy design, targeting methods for improving the administration, and the enhanced use of ICT. One of the objectives now is to build the human capital necessary for this innovation-driven development. These objectives are compliant with SDG 9 on infrastructure, industrialization, and innovation and its targets 9.5 and 9.b., along with SDG 13 on clean energy.

Azerbaijan aims at achieving the following SDGs: SDG 4 on inclusive and equitable education, SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 8 on sustainable and inclusive economic growth that ensures full employment, as well as target 9.1 of SDG 9 on infrastructure for sustainable economic development and well-being. To conclude, these objectives can be framed around SDG 10 on reduced inequalities.

The country is also willing to cooperate within the SPECA-SDGs framework by systematic data gathering and analysis through its political, economic, and educational institutions. Azerbaijan has recently made substantial progress in national data collection, analysis and reporting, it will further develop strategic support for monitoring and evaluation of progress in the implementation of the SDGs, underpinned by strong political commitment.<sup>26</sup> Azerbaijan does not have structural issues, such as those in providing citizens with national identity cards and birth certificates, and the country is willing to collaborate with partners and provide accurate data, data analysis, and indexes of development, which reflects the SDGs agenda, notably of SDGs 16 and 17.<sup>27</sup>

## 5.3 Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan adopted the President’s “Kazakhstan - 2050” strategy to address, among other sustainable development issues, ecological concerns. In it, Kazakhstan envisages to develop a new policy regarding water resources, as agriculture needs colossal water resources. Kazakhstan can contribute to resolving vital social and economic problems in the subregion, addressing water, energy and other sensitive issues.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Country Assessment, p. 57

<sup>27</sup> [http://www.az.undp.org/content/azerbaijan/en/home/ourwork/indepth\\_sd.html](http://www.az.undp.org/content/azerbaijan/en/home/ourwork/indepth_sd.html)



Sustainable agriculture and natural resource management are critical for food security and the welfare of rural communities. Appropriate land and forest management, improved resource efficiency and sustainable farming practices may generate economic, social, and environmental benefits for ‘green’ growth, including prosperity of agricultural communities, new jobs, higher incomes, and a better quality of life.<sup>28</sup>

In Kazakhstan, most SDGs have made their way into strategic development documents. For example, the broad scope of SDG 16 that promotes access to justice and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions, is captured in the Five institutional reforms and 100 Concrete Steps initiated by the President. For example, SDG 10 on reducing inequality is an area covered less by the current national instruments, for which a flagship initiative may be necessary. SDG 11 on sustainable cities is an area where Kazakhstan could provide guidance internationally through a flagship initiative that would promote the model of such cities as Astana and Almaty in the implementation of the SDGs. They could be tailored further to local context at the Oblast (district) and Rayon (local region) levels.

Kazakhstan has several instruments to promote international dialogue on SDGs, such as EXPO 2017, the Astana Economic Forum, the newly established KazAID agency, the Regional Hub of Civil Service supported by UNDP, and the Regional Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction. Various actors will be implementing the SDGs in Kazakhstan through numerous channels and means. A monitoring framework for these results needs to be developed, using, among others, existing monitoring mechanisms for various national instruments. The UN Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan, Mr. Norimasa Shimomura, stated at the Al-Farabi Kazakhstan National University that assistance is necessary to strengthen national statistical capacities.<sup>29</sup>

## SDGs

As a host-country for EXPO 2017, in a time of global economic slowdown, Kazakhstan actively promotes an agenda of industrial development and innovations in clean energy research (SDG 7), as well as sustainable development of cities. These plans present a good opportunity to implement efficient low carbon practices not only in the industrial or residential sectors, but also in agriculture.<sup>30</sup>

Consequently, the following SDGs and all their targets are considered priority ones for Kazakhstan’s sustainable environmental development: SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy, SDG 13 on climate action, SDG 14 on life below water, SDG 15 on life on land, and SDG 17, target 17.4, on cooperation in environmental issues via sustainable technologies and knowledge.

The transport sector contributes over 6% of Kazakhstan’s GDP. Its economy is among the most freight intensive in the world, due to the country’s geography, long distances, low population density and the export-led nature of economic growth. Kazakhstan’s main goal is to develop sustainable infrastructure and to increase its transit potential.

Kazakhstan focuses on SDGs that reflect its national priorities. Cooperating with other countries on matters of affordable and clean energy (a priority for the country) reflects SDG 7, targets 7.a and 7.b. The aim is to deepen cooperation to develop shared trans-boundary infrastructure and sustainable practices between the connected states, which also relates to SDG 9, target 9.1. Such cooperation would enhance the implementation of SDG 10: reduced inequalities. Connectivity is key to achieving several SDGs. Kazakhstan’s aim at improving connectivity through technological advancements, universal access to the Internet, providing easy access to transport for the most vulnerable groups (SDG 11.2) also aims at achieving the SDGs.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>28</sup> Kazakhstan Country Analysis, p. 34

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.undp.org/content/unct/kazakhstan/en/home/presscenter/statement-on-opportunities-presented-by-sdgs-for-kazakhstan-by-.html>

<sup>30</sup> Ibid., p. 32

<sup>31</sup> SPECA Survey, Kazakhstan GVT, 2016

Kazakhstan aspires a leading role in sustainable development in the subregion, including in trade. Trade with Kazakhstan's Central Asian neighbours, China and Russia is expanding. Kazakhstan signed the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in 1994 and, in 2010 the Customs Union Agreement with the Russian Federation and Belarus, later joined by Kyrgyzstan. Kazakhstan sees regional trade as an engine for growth. The "Kazakhstan 2050" strategy builds on the presumption that Kazakhstan cannot enjoy prosperity, if its neighbours are poor. Increasing regional trade will have a clear positive effect on achieving SDG 17.11 – raising developing countries' share in global exports.

Kazakhstan joined the World Trade Organization (WTO) as a full member in 2015. The country has demonstrated a strong commitment to promote the universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory, and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization (SDG 17.10), including through subregional exchange of experiences and organizing regional training on WTO issues on its soil in 2017. Kazakhstan's attention to integration in the global trading system relates to boosting its export potential (SDG 17.11). The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) Generalized System of Preferences (EAEU GSP Scheme) for developing and least developed countries is applied in compliance with WTO provisions, showing a commitment to SDG target 17.12: providing duty free and quota free market access on a lasting basis for least developed countries. In this way, Kazakhstan shows its commitment to promoting economic growth locally and regionally (SDG 8) through regional cooperation, which provides equal opportunities for all involved parties (SDG 10).

The knowledge-based agenda for development in Kazakhstan promotes the implementation of SDG 9, notably target 9.5 on enhancing scientific research, upgrading the technological capabilities of industrial sectors. Kazakhstan invests heavily in scientific research and building local capacities in this area. If achieved, SDG 9.b on the development of domestic technological capacities to ensure industrial diversification will have positive impact on climate action in the country (SDG 13).

In his address on Agenda 2050, President Nazarbayev stated that it was important to "prevent gender discrimination and work to provide gender equality and equal opportunities for women and men", and invited employers to deliver on this priority issue.<sup>32</sup> Despite certain success in achieving the most standard gender indicators and the importance attached to gender equality at the highest political level (as witnessed by the 'Kazakhstan 2050' agenda), serious concerns remain in terms of sustained participation of women and girls in decision-making, underpinning structural inequalities between men and women. Violence against women persists, against a reluctance of relevant agencies to address this violence. Kazakhstan needs to tackle human trafficking, early and forced marriages, sexual harassment in the workplace, and women's economic rights. Therefore, Kazakhstan prioritizes gender issue in its development agenda (SDG 5). Such a policy priority will have a positive impact on achieving equal access to education (SDG 4), equal economic opportunities (SDG 8), building accessible infrastructure (SDG 9), and reduced inequalities across social groups (SDG 10) in Kazakhstan.

## 5.4 Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstan works closely with UNDP in its efforts to "focus on developing capacity of institutions and communities using analytical tools (NHDRs and MDG reports), human rights-, gender equality- and youth-based approaches".<sup>33</sup>

The Kyrgyz national development agenda recognizes the significance of water issues. It states that access to safe water and adequate sanitation largely influences the effectiveness of healthcare. Much attention is given to water supply, sanitation, and hygiene issues, which are vital for the entire population of Kyrgyzstan, especially for children. The Government defines its policy on these issues, especially in the regions, water availability is necessary for the development of agriculture.<sup>34</sup> Consequently, SDG 6

<sup>32</sup> Kyrgyzstan National Development Strategy, p. 41

<sup>33</sup> [http://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/operations/about\\_undp.html](http://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/operations/about_undp.html)

<sup>34</sup> Ibid. p.87

on clean water and sanitation and all its targets are significant for the sustainable development agenda of Kyrgyzstan.

Kyrgyzstan's "green economy" strategy considers all natural assets as factors of production and provides for a transition to a resource-efficient and low-carbon development based on the rational use of natural resources and promotion of low-waste or no-waste methods of production and consumption. This is complemented by growing use of renewable energy sources: solar, wind, water, geothermal sources, and biofuel. Since sustainable development planning implies taking environmental threats and risks into consideration, adaptation to climate change is becoming increasingly relevant.

The Government approved a draft law on the State strategic planning system, which is currently under consideration by Parliament (Zhogorku Kenesh or Supreme Council). This bill aims at harmonizing all matters related to the initiation, development, review, approval, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and adjustment of public policy instruments at all levels. It sets out the organization and basic principles of strategic planning, the system of public strategic planning documents and the responsibilities of those involved in the strategic planning process.

Within the State's forecasting system, methodologies were adopted for strategic planning on sustainable development and for assessing and cataloguing public policy instruments, in line with the strategic planning framework.

#### SDGs

The agenda of achieving SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy in Kyrgyzstan overlaps with other SDGs and their targets, as the country is striving to build a "green economy" (SDG 8), thus promoting responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), addressing climate change (SDG 13) and life on land (SDG 15) issues. The energy sector is one of the most important in the Kyrgyz economy, accounting for roughly 3.9 percent of GDP and 16 percent of industrial production. In contrast to neighbouring countries, Kyrgyzstan has small amounts of natural reserves of fossil fuels, but enjoys large amounts of water resources and an abundant supply of hydropower. This is recognized as one of development opportunities for the country, already reflected in the Government's development strategy for the energy sector for 2012–2015.

In terms of infrastructure and sustainable transport development (SDG 9, target 9.1), similarly to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan's strategic objective is to become a regional transit-hub, reflecting the geographical position of the Central Asian countries. The national development strategy contains specific infrastructure measures to turn Kyrgyzstan from a "transport deadlock" into a "transit" country. Planned construction of railways is going to give impetus to the development of regional economies, and addresses the problem of access to mineral deposits. All this will increase employment and improve economic well-being of the population, providing additional transport links between the North and the South of the country. An important priority for Kyrgyzstan is the development of the tourism industry and aspiring the status of a major regional centre of tourism and recreation, meeting modern requirements<sup>35</sup>. All this involves building transboundary infrastructure to promote and deepen trade relationships with the SPECA countries, and improve the economic conditions in the country and the subregion (target 9.1).

The high dependence of the Kyrgyz Republic on foreign economic relations is primarily due to the small size of the domestic market and the relative lack of resources and capital goods. At the same time, the high degree of openness of Kyrgyzstan's economy makes it very vulnerable to global price fluctuations. The tightening of the external borders of the Eurasian Economic Union may exacerbate the situation.

Consequently, in pursuing the SDG agenda, Kyrgyzstan has aligned its priorities with SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, reduced inequalities on interstate levels (SDG 10) as well as SDG 17 on partnerships for achieving the goals. These SDGs prove their relevance in terms of targets 8.a on

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<sup>35</sup> Kyrgyzstan National Development Strategy, p. 55

providing aid and support in terms of sustainable trade development for the developing countries and targets 17.10, 17.11, 17.12 increasing the integration of the country in the world trading system<sup>36</sup>.

SDG 9 on industry, innovation, and infrastructure is given priority. Specifically, the targets on enhancing scientific research and encouraging innovation (9.5) and assisting the diversification of industry and providing policies for such development (9.b) are relevant for Kyrgyzstan's sustainable development priorities. These are expected to affect the achievement of the environmental agenda of the country (notably SDG 13).

Due to increased migration, traditional family ties have weakened. Women increasingly choose education that leads then to taking lower-paying jobs. Salaries in traditionally "female" occupations are usually 2.5 times lower than those in traditionally "male" ones. Men also experience the consequences of stereotypes, notably that they should be the "bread-winners". Kyrgyzstan became the first country in Central Asia to adopt its own National Plan on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security. It is piloting the UN's 7- Point Action Plan on women's equal participation in decision-making bodies and their role in peacebuilding, conflict prevention and resolution, as well as the protection of women and girls from violence. Both correspond to the National Gender Equality Strategy (2012-2020) and the subsequent Action plan.<sup>37</sup> In this sense, providing quality education (SDG 4) is the cornerstone of achieving gender equality (SDG 5), improving the economic conditions of all groups and reducing inequalities (SDG 10).

## 5.5 Tajikistan

The President of Tajikistan has emphasized the importance of water issues and the disputed water reservoirs with Uzbekistan<sup>38</sup>. Arguably, the current circumstances prevent the country from utilizing fully its water resources and providing its citizens and the subregion with sufficient supply of fresh water despite the country's large potential.<sup>39</sup> Consequently, the agenda of SDG 6 and its targets on providing universal access to clean water and sanitation is Tajikistan's priority.

The achievement of SDG 13 on climate action is highly relevant to Tajikistan's national priorities, even though the country struggles with other domestic, social, economic, and political issues. SDG 15 on life on land is highly relevant to the country's priorities to promote conservation and proper management of biodiversity and ecosystems.<sup>40</sup>

Tajikistan has a potentially advantageous geographical position as a transit country for the development of regional transport and communications<sup>41</sup>. Problems related to the development of public infrastructure (transportation, power, telecommunications and other communication facilities, water supply and sanitation) complicate economic development. In its national strategy, the Government notes its plans to simplify border-crossing, customs, and clearance procedures, and to modernize Customs facilities and border-crossings to the benefit of importers and exporters.<sup>42</sup> These objectives relate to SDG 9 on industry, infrastructure, and innovation, as well as SDG 17, target 11, on expanding exports.

Poor regional cooperation in trade and transit hinders access to foreign markets. An underdeveloped transportation and transit system and the absence of healthy competition in the transportation services market create difficulties for entrepreneurs. Tajikistan joined the WTO in 2013. This provides opportunities for accessing new markets, export diversification, and removing trade barriers. Despite

<sup>36</sup> SPECA Survey, Kyrgyzstan, 2016

<sup>37</sup> UNDAF MTR, p. 15

<sup>38</sup> <http://watersdg2016.org/statement-by-the-president-of-the-republic-of-tajikistan-his-excellency-emomali-rahmon-at-the-opening-ceremony-of-the-high-level-symposium-on-sdg-6-and-targets-ensuring-that-no-one-is-left-behind-in-a/>

<sup>39</sup> Tajikistan National Development Strategy, p. 51

<sup>40</sup> National Development Strategy, p.55 The Strategy promotes raising environmental awareness among the public and businesses to promote the sound use and conservation of natural resources; development of public-private partnership mechanisms with a view to promoting environmental sustainability; implementing measures to preserve specially protected natural areas and to restore forest resources and pastureland; and developing an integrated pest management system.

<sup>41</sup> Tajikistan National Development Strategy, p.5

<sup>42</sup> Ibid. p. 19

several positive regulatory reforms, however, Tajikistan still has an extremely low level of private investment, reflecting persistent challenges that limit business growth.<sup>43</sup>

Even though Tajikistan's economy has grown fast since 2000, challenges hampering development remain. Tajikistan remains the poorest former Soviet country, and recent advances are at risk of being lost. Tajikistan's economy is particularly susceptible to the effects of the global economic crisis, due to its reliance on remittances from its people's labour migration. About a third of the economically active population works as labour migrants abroad, and remittances comprise approximately 50% of the GDP.<sup>44</sup> However, since independence, Tajikistan has become an economically viable State, promoting sustainable development, democratic and market economy principles.<sup>45</sup>

## SDGs

Tajikistan, as a developing country, needs assistance from larger global actors. One of the venues for such aid would be through channels mentioned under SDG 8, target 8.a. Tajikistan aims at reinforcing partnerships to achieve sustainable development (SDG 17), which would include mutual assistance and partnership between the SPECA states. Tajikistan has been chairing the SPECA Working Group on Trade with this objective for many years. In this sense, Tajikistan pays special attention to decreasing inequalities among and within countries, and equal treatment of migrant workers (SDG 10, targets 6, 7, a, b, and c).

Tajikistan's post-Soviet transition was marked by serious political and economic problems, which led to deterioration of the conditions in the economy's Social Block (health care, education and science, social welfare, water supply, sanitation, housing and municipal services, the environment and gender equality). This resulted in reduced access to high-quality social services and a decline in the standard of living<sup>46</sup>. The government plans to develop on a priority basis the agricultural sector, provide better quality social services, reduce unemployment, and provide universal education to eliminate poverty. Therefore, the achievement of SDG 1 (no poverty) will benefit from the achievement of other gender and economy related SDGs.

Universal access to quality education (SDG 4) and health (SDGs 3) remain priorities for government financing and reform. In order to achieve sustainable development with skilled human capital and providing equal opportunities, tertiary education receives special attention, with admittance to universities via the Unified Entrance Examination based on merit. To achieve these priority goals, the government aims at a more efficient use of budget resources<sup>47</sup>, and providing equal opportunities to all (SDG 10).

Women's opportunities to defend their interests are limited at the levels of society, local communities, and households. Economic activity among women remains lower than among men because of socio-demographic factors<sup>48</sup>. SDG 5 on gender equality and providing more possibilities for development of women is on the agenda due to existing problems<sup>49</sup>.

The government of Tajikistan plans to strengthen the national statistical system based on changes in relevant legal acts and reforming the existing organizational structure: redefining the role of the statistical system and improving the technical coordination among compilers, and among ministries. The reform implies implementing measures to improve the system of indicators for forecasting development in various sectors of the economy and the methodology for calculating key macroeconomic indicators. The improved statistical capacity of Tajikistan will have a positive impact

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<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.tj.undp.org/content/tajikistan/en/home/countryinfo.html>

<sup>45</sup> Ibid

<sup>46</sup> Tajikistan National Development Strategy, p. 33

<sup>47</sup> UN Country Analysis – Tajikistan, p. 10

<sup>48</sup> Tajikistan National Development Strategy, p. 56

<sup>49</sup> SPECA Survey, Tajikistan, 2106

on its ability to monitor the process of implementation of all SDGs, using strengthened partnerships and exchange of best practices with other countries. (SDG 17), and increasing the institutional capacity of the country (SDG 16) to implement sustainable development.

## 5.6 Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan has undertaken a broad socio-economic reform agenda with the objective of increasing living standards to the level of developed countries. Progress in some areas, such as access to free education and average life expectancy, has been notable. Nearly half of the country's workforce is employed in the agriculture sector. Yet agriculture accounts for only 8 percent of GDP, operating in very fragile environmental conditions, which in turn results in exhausting the limited drinkable water resources and high vulnerability to climate change<sup>50</sup>.

On 20 September 2016, the Government of Turkmenistan formally adopted a list of 17 SDGs, 148 targets and 198 indicators to be implemented over the next 15 years. On the same day, Mr. Rashid Meredov, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan conveyed the Government's decision to the UN Resident Coordinator in Turkmenistan. This provided a basis for work on the implementation of the SDGs and for cooperation between development partners and Turkmenistan over the next 15 years. The approval marked the completion of the first stage of the three-stage SDG rollout process led by the UNCT and UNDP in Turkmenistan.<sup>51</sup>

This cooperation between the UN agencies and a UN Member State (Turkmenistan) can serve as a best practice example for other countries. During Stage One, in 2015, the Government - with support of the UN - conducted several meetings. 17 one-day meetings took place and finished in March 2016, with 17 days of in-depth consultations to discuss each goal (one day per goal), the corresponding targets and indicators, to agree which ones would be recommended for formal adoption and implementation. The discussions resulted in a list of 17 SDGs, 148 targets (121 global targets without modification and 27 modified targets to adjust to local context) and 198 indicators (109 without modification, 50 – modified and 39 – national indicators) recommended for adoption. The UN and the Government drafted 3 institutional options for the overall coordination of the implementation of SDGs in the country, which has opted for an “all of government approach” to SDG implementation. The Cabinet of Ministers then considered these options.<sup>52</sup>

Stage Two then began with a focus on two components: component (a) to integrate some of the agreed SDGs into the 2017-2021 Presidential Plan (national development plan); and component (b) to integrate some of the agreed SDGs into medium term sector plans and programs.<sup>53</sup>

Stage Three has also two components: component (a) to set up an overall SDG monitoring system and component (b) to strengthen the incorporation of SDGs in the work of line ministries.<sup>54</sup>

Turkmenistan opened five human rights resource centers mainly at the tertiary educational institutes in four provinces and at the National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights in the capital city to provide better access for citizens to human rights related literature.

Turkmenistan introduced a Notional Defined Contribution (NDC) pension system (replacing the previous pay-as-you-go system) and a Pension Fund in early 2012. According to the Government of Turkmenistan, 75% of the 2012 national budget was allocated to the implementation of the National Programme (2007-2020) on Improving Social and Living Conditions of People. This rate of social expenditures is also cited by ADB. Turkmenistan's Human Development Index in 2013 is 0.698, which gives the country a rank of 102 out of 186 countries.

<sup>50</sup> UN Country Analysis – Turkmenistan, p. 5

<sup>51</sup> <http://www.tm.undp.org/content/turkmenistan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2016/09/21/the-government-of-turkmenistan-approves-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-to-be-implemented-over-the-next-15-years-.html>

<sup>52</sup> Ibid

<sup>53</sup> Ibid

<sup>54</sup> Ibid

Turkmenistan approved its National Climate Change Strategy in June 2012, which lays out a policy framework for building climate resilience and a low emission economy. The strategy stipulates several sector-tailored measures to ensure mitigation and adaptation response from the key economic areas, such as oil and gas, power engineering, construction, water, agriculture, and others. The adoption of this strategy signals that Turkmenistan is eager to make its economy greener, have less carbon emissions, and become more resource efficient.

Turkmenistan, as a major oil and natural gas producer, advocates the development of an appropriate international legal framework for the security of energy transit systems.

## SDGs

The Central Asian Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) asked Turkmenistan to coordinate the activities on climate change in the subregion<sup>55</sup>. Turkmenistan then proposed to establish, in cooperation with the UN, a specialized Regional Centre to address issues related to climate change.<sup>56</sup> The Government is committed to increasing water management capacities to maintain agricultural production and access to clean water in the subregion.

The Government is in the process of building national water reservoir, and the state budget has a special allocation for this objective. As per the country's UNDAF assessment, water-related problems cause severe health hazards, especially for rural residents. The assessment notes that drinking water and sanitation networks have improved, but hygiene practices need to be enhanced significantly, and may be linked to necessary improvements in health and nutrition indicators<sup>57</sup>. Consequently, the issues addressed by SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation have a priority for Turkmenistan's government.

Climate action is a concern for Turkmenistan, as it is highly vulnerable to climate change. Even if not explicitly stated in the national development agenda, building sustainable energy practices is perceived as a key factor for achieving economic prosperity in the country. Warming appears to be occurring at a faster pace in Turkmenistan than in other countries. The expectation is that climate change will seriously affect virtually all important social and economic sectors of the country<sup>58</sup>. Consequently, adapting to climate change (SDG 13) is a priority for the country.

Another ecological issue mentioned in the national strategy is the preservation of biodiversity, the conservation of nature, and the diversification of economic activity on land and under water (particularly with respect to the Caspian Sea) with a focus on sustainable development. Climate change may cause further loss of biodiversity changes of species composition, decrease in habitats, and outspread of destructive pests<sup>59</sup>. A comprehensive State biodiversity monitoring system does not yet exist, and Government bodies need support to strengthen their capacity in this area. Biodiversity governance is further constrained by the fact that Turkmenistan has not acceded to several key international Conventions on biodiversity, such as CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). In this sense, SDGs 14 and 15 on life on and under water (in the Caspian) are of high concern for Turkmenistan.

The Government of Turkmenistan has adopted a plan for a full transition to market economy. In it, it prioritizes the development of transport, communications, and information technologies within and outside the country to strengthen the foreign economic activity, geopolitical and geo-economic status of Turkmenistan in the Eurasian continent<sup>60</sup>. A window of opportunity for Turkmenistan's transport objectives is the access to Caspian Sea, and the development of Turkmenbashi Port as a major transport

<sup>55</sup> <http://tm.one.un.org/content/unct/turkmenistan/en/home/about-us/unct-focus/focus-area-1.html>

<sup>56</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=2236>

<sup>57</sup> UN country analysis – Turkmenistan, p.48.

<sup>58</sup> UN Country Analysis – Turkmenistan, p.12

<sup>59</sup> Ibid. p.71

<sup>60</sup> Turkmenistan National Development Strategy, p. 11

and logistics centre in the Caspian region<sup>61</sup>. Other major infrastructure projects under way include the utilization of the north-south (Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran) railway line, and the construction of a Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Tajikistan railway line<sup>62</sup>. These projects directly support the achievement of SDG 9 on industry, innovation, and infrastructure.

The Government is exploring the possibility to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) (SDG 17.10), a move that will require substantive preparation and support. The Government aims at increasing the share of domestic goods in market supplies, and at introducing modern transaction facilities (e.g. plastic credit cards)<sup>63</sup>. The goal is to buttress the private sector, which will successfully maintain retail activities in the country. The position of the government is that the trade agenda still needs analysis and further development, notably on the costs and benefits of WTO accession (SDG 17.10) and expanding the exports of the country (SDG 17.11).<sup>64</sup> A sustainable approach to trade development will create incentives for strengthening the quality of education and workforce qualifications, raising infrastructure standards, and achieving efficiency gains in production (SDG 10).

In terms of knowledge-based development, the country pursues the strategy of ICT development that will contribute to improving the effectiveness of state governance, market relationships and the overall economic activity<sup>65</sup>. This is in line with the targets of SDG 9 on industry, innovation, and infrastructure<sup>66</sup>. Speeding up ICT development, notably in the public authorities, is important for the launch of e-government, electronic document management, and other electronic information systems. The development of ICT will contribute to better health protection and ensuring a modern level of national security protection. The UN country analysis provides substantial explanation on this matter.

In terms of gender equality, Turkmenistan's Constitution upholds the principle of equality between women and men and prohibits all forms of discrimination. Several important steps have been taken to advance women's empowerment. Nonetheless, gaps remain, including in policies and legislation. Many gender-sensitive matters remain unaddressed and there is difference in access to education for men and women and for different social groups, notably between members of rural and urban communities. These relate to matters of quality education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), decent economic growth and work (SDG 8), and reduced inequalities (SDG 10).

The UN report notes that additional support is required to make the national statistical system more responsive to the needs of policymakers and other users, including for monitoring and improvement of sustainable development activities<sup>67</sup>.

## 5.7 Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan works closely with the UN agencies to fulfil the SDGs. Some practical examples include a UNICEF mission to improve the wellbeing of children and women<sup>68</sup>; the development of rural areas with emphasis on agricultural modernization, trade facilitation and boosting economic growth<sup>69</sup>. Uzbekistan is involved in the agenda of climate action - the main goal of the SPECA "water, energy, and environment" Working Group, with its initiatives for developing and utilizing renewable energy sources<sup>70</sup>.

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<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> UN Country Analysis – Turkmenistan, p.59

<sup>63</sup> Turkmenistan National Development Strategy, p. 38

<sup>64</sup> SPECA Survey, UNCT Turkmenistan, 2016

<sup>65</sup> Ibid. p. 37

<sup>66</sup> 9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending 9.b Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities

<sup>67</sup> SPECA Survey, UNCT Turkmenistan, 2016. p.6

<sup>68</sup> <http://www.uzbekistan.org/millennium-development-goals/archive/6318/>

<sup>69</sup> <http://www.adecia.org/en/new-project-in-uzbekistan-sustainable-development-in-rural-areas/>

<sup>70</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=869&menu=1515>



## SDGs

Freshwater is unevenly distributed in Uzbekistan, with Karakalpakstan, Khorezm and Bukhara provinces experiencing water deficits and poor water quality. The rural population is especially vulnerable to drinking water shortages. Wherever there is piped drinking water in rural areas, it is available only 2 to 6 hours per day in some places<sup>71</sup>. The country aims at increasing the share of urban and rural populations with access to clean drinking water and sanitation (SDG 6).

Another priority for the Government is the enhancement of energy-efficiency of production, the wide application of energy saving technologies, and development of the energy sector, based on renewable energy sources. Sectoral renewable energy and housing energy efficiency strategies exist, and corresponding nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) have been developed (or are under development). Uzbekistan is also a regional leader in implementation of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), with 11 million issued Certified Emissions Reductions (CERs) from 15 registered projects<sup>72</sup>. Therefore, the country is capable to address its clean energy priorities, as related to SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy.

Uzbekistan accepted certain obligations when joining conventions on the environment: national commissions have been created on such issues as the response to climate change, preserving biodiversity, combating desertification, and stopping the use of ozone-damaging substances (SDGs 13, 14, and 15). The country wants to ensure its ecologic security and promote sustainable practices in these areas to maintain socio-economic development as they directly affect the agricultural industry of the country. The Second National Communication of Uzbekistan to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) states that climate change is likely to cause further shrinkage of agricultural land, because of a rise of land salinization, exacerbated by higher evaporation rates, intensified land degradation and desertification processes, and severe water shortages. This can result in the reduction of agricultural crop productivity and yields, and can threaten national food security. Climate change thus poses threats to the agricultural sector and demands urgent additional adaptation measures, as business-as-usual methods and approaches will fail to maintain the productivity of farming systems<sup>73</sup>.

Uzbekistan pursues urgent modernization and development of its transport infrastructure, including that of automobile, railroad and air transportation, and pipelines. It prioritizes the more-precise regulation of the process of transporting goods through the customs' borders, and putting them under certain customs regimes<sup>74</sup>. Therefore, the country will work towards SDG 9, targets on developing transboundary infrastructure to promote and deepen the trade relationships, including with the neighbours, and improve the economic conditions (target 9.1). Connectivity is reinforced through ICT development and efforts to provide universal access to Internet (target 9.c).

The development of foreign trade relations (notably exports) and attracting foreign investment into local businesses and development enterprises are policy priorities for Uzbekistan. The national strategy focuses on the revision of the Customs Code of Uzbekistan, aimed at securing effective customs control and regulation of merchandise flows, boosting foreign trade, and establishing favourable conditions for conducting business<sup>75</sup>.

Uzbekistan wants to pursue the rapid development of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), and its increased role in the national economy. The National development strategy states that necessary measures have been taken to achieve the above-mentioned objectives<sup>76</sup>. The Government

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<sup>71</sup> UN Country Analysis – Uzbekistan, p. 108

<sup>72</sup> UN Country Analysis, p.103

<sup>73</sup> Ibid. p. 102

<sup>74</sup> Uzbekistan National Development Strategy, p. 30

<sup>75</sup> Ibid. p. 29.

<sup>76</sup> UN Country Analysis – Uzbekistan, p.27

spends heavily on the modernization of education practices and the introduction of innovations into education (SDGs 9<sup>77</sup> and 13).

Uzbekistan aims at the improvement of the institutional mechanism for achieving gender equality (SDG 5). This involves the strengthening of the gender component of national legislation and the more comprehensive consideration of gender issues during the development and implementation of policy measures and national, regional, and sector-based programmes and projects.

Uzbekistan introduced a 50-50 gender ratio requirement in schools as a primary objective of its national development strategy. Moreover, it strives to provide universal education from grade one to nine with the aim to reach 96.8 per cent coverage of the population in the general secondary education system. Given the fact that primary and secondary education in Uzbekistan is compulsory by law, starting in 2011, 99 per cent of students who enrolled in grade one reached grade five. The strategy points out that no regional or gender discrimination in access to education exists in Uzbekistan<sup>78</sup>.

As the country strives to become an industrialized, higher-middle income country, its main challenge will be not only to sustain a high GDP growth rate, but also to significantly improve the welfare of its population by expanding economic and social development opportunities across all regions (SDGs 8, 9, 10). While GDP per capita almost tripled since 2001 (from US\$542 to US\$1,580), the corresponding decline in the poverty rate has been less significant, from 27.5 per cent in 2001 to 17 per cent in 2011<sup>79</sup>, and this is an issue to be addressed for the achievement of SDG 1 on poverty reduction.

A task group under the National Development Strategy called “Formation of a Necessary Statistical Database and the Development of Indicators for the Monitoring and Evaluation, Analysis of the Policy-relevance” aims at raising the awareness of national and foreign investors of the rich natural and economic potential of Uzbekistan, and each of its regions. This campaign is accompanied by an increase in the quality and accessibility of related statistical data<sup>80</sup>. The UN report points out the discrepancies in Uzbekistan’s official statistics and the data gathered by various organizations (including the UN). Consequently, SDG targets 17.8, 17.16, and 17.18<sup>81</sup> remain very much relevant for the further development of the country.

## 6. Related supporting work by development partners

Based on the experience in implementing the MDGs and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development, various organizations have started building up support and bringing together domestic and international, public and private resources for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.<sup>82</sup> The 2030 Agenda identifies means and tools, through which its objectives shall be achieved, and outlines how these means of implementation can be mobilized. Innovation, the mobilization of financial resources

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<sup>77</sup> 9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending. 9.b Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities

<sup>78</sup> Uzbekistan National Development Strategy, p.16

<sup>79</sup> Ibid. p. 68.

<sup>80</sup> Uzbekistan National Development Strategy, p.46

<sup>81</sup> 17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology. 17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries. 17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

<sup>82</sup> [http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA\\_Outcome.pdf#page=5&zoom=auto,-373,486](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf#page=5&zoom=auto,-373,486)

(public and private), and partnerships among all relevant stakeholders are key means to implement the SDGs.<sup>83</sup>

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda called for the mobilization inter alia of domestic and international private business resources and finance to complement domestic public resources, and for addressing scientific, technology and innovation issues. It recognizes “that both public and private investments have key roles to play in infrastructure financing, including through development banks, development finance institutions and tools and mechanisms such as public-private partnerships.” It also commits UN Member States to undertake capacity-building activities, to develop guidelines and to build a knowledge base on PPPs through regional and global forums.

A number of UN organizations and other development partners support the implementation of the SDGs in the SPECA region. These include the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), which provide overall support to the SPECA Programme.<sup>84</sup>

Within the UN system, UNDP, UN Environment and others are working collaboratively to support Governments in the planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting, and review of policies and actions linked to the 2030 Agenda. UNDP-UN Environment have been supporting efforts (through the Poverty-Environment Initiative) to improve the ability of governments to steer natural resources better, to reduce poverty, promote environmental sustainability and meet the intertwined challenges set by the SDGs.<sup>85</sup>

UN Women works to increase Central Asian women’s incomes and economic rights including their right to own land, to improve social protection for women informal workers and to raise gender equality accountability. To do this, the UN Women Multi-Country Office in Almaty supports initiatives that: (i) secure the rights of economically vulnerable women in Central Asia, ranging from domestic workers to labour migrants, through the Regional Migration Programme for Central Asia; (ii) enhance women’s access to quality information and services for employment, social protection, land and property rights; (iii) promote civic registration in Tajikistan; and (iv) provide technical assistance that strengthens social partners’ ability to monitor enforcement of laws and policies to protect women’s labour and employment rights.<sup>86</sup>

The Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Monetary Fund, the Islamic Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, and the World Bank assist the economies of Central Asia through the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Programme ([www.carecprogram.org/](http://www.carecprogram.org/)). This Programme helps Central Asia and its neighbours realize their significant potential by promoting regional cooperation in four priority areas: Transport; Trade Facilitation; Energy, and Trade Policy.<sup>87</sup>

The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (also called CAREC) supports sub-regional cooperation on the monitoring and implementation of the SDGs. The expected result of its work represents an input into the Environment for Europe process and the national strategic plans of the five Central Asian countries. CAREC supports regional strategic actions and plans towards the achievement of Agenda 2030. The commitment of CAREC falls under focus areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9 of the Batumi Initiative: namely, improve the measurement, valuation, and sustainable use of natural capital; promote the internalization of negative externalities; enhance ecosystems and ecosystem services as part of ecological infrastructure; steer consumer behaviour towards sustainable consumption patterns; promote green and fair trade; increase green and decent jobs, while developing the necessary human

<sup>83</sup> [https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/ceci/documents/2016/CECI/ECE\\_CECI\\_2016\\_CRP\\_5.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/ceci/documents/2016/CECI/ECE_CECI_2016_CRP_5.pdf)

<sup>84</sup> <http://www.unece.org/speca/ge.html>

<sup>85</sup> See more at: [http://www.unpei.org/conference-towards-a-common-vision-for-agenda-2030-in-central-asia-set-to-deliver-joint-regional-vision-of-action-towards-the-sustainable-development-goals#\\_ftn2](http://www.unpei.org/conference-towards-a-common-vision-for-agenda-2030-in-central-asia-set-to-deliver-joint-regional-vision-of-action-towards-the-sustainable-development-goals#_ftn2)

<sup>86</sup> <http://eca.unwomen.org/en/where-we-are/kazakhstan-multi-country-office/economic-empowerment/labour-migration-and-the-women-of-central-asia>

<sup>87</sup> <https://www.adb.org/countries/sub-regionsub-regional-programs/carec>

capital; improve access to services, healthy living and well-being; and promote public and private participation and education for sustainable development. Implementing partners include national partners, such as state statistical Committees, ministries of economy, and ministries of the environment protection. Through its building partnerships for the achievement of the environmental SDGs, the commitment of CAREC is relevant to SDG 17.<sup>88</sup>

The environmental CAREC has worked on 27 projects, 17 of which of regional character. 13 out of the 27 were launched in 2015, in partnership with USAID, the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), the Federal Environment Protection Department of Switzerland (FOEN), OSCE, UNEP, UNDP, the World Bank, the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Samsung Electronics Central Eurasia Company. CAREC continued its environmental and development interventions on all levels based on multilateral cooperation, promoting the introduction of knowledge-based tools ensuring effective interaction of partners within five thematic programmes:

- I. environmental management and policy;
- II. water initiatives support;
- III. climate change and sustainable energy;
- IV. education for sustainable development;
- V. health and environment.<sup>89</sup>

On 2-4 November 2016, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in conjunction with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) and UNECE, organized a High-level Regional Conference “Common Vision for the 2030 Agenda in Central Asia”. The objective was to take stock of what different organizations are doing on SDGs and to establish a regional dialogue on SDGs with a distinct focus on Green Economy and delivering on the environmental dimension. The event’s objectives were to raise awareness, develop capacity, and strengthen the engagement of regional and national stakeholders with respect to Central Asian sustainability issues and the possible ways to address them jointly, through potential alignment of regional and national strategies with the SDGs. In that sense, it served as a platform to explore opportunities for developing joint regional actions for Agenda 2030.

The Conference brought together representatives of various national authorities in the five Central Asian countries and international partners, SDG focal points in the governments and UNDP Country Offices, policy makers and technical experts on the SDGs and Central Asia, educators from governments and NGOs, UN regional organizations and UN agencies, GIZ, IFAS, involved in the implementation of Agenda 2030. The five Central Asia countries reported on specific initiatives to initiate SDG processes, existing partnerships, notably with UNDP, in support of the SDGs.

The Regional Conference prepared a Joint Statement (Conference Outcome Document) and a list of actions for SDGs support and implementation at regional level in Central Asia. The outcome document “Joint vision of Central Asia countries on SDGs” reviewed national activities led by UN Country Teams, and other reports presented by participants in the conference. Possible cooperation measures will concentrate on maintaining and supporting the SDG process at national, regional, and global levels and ensure contribution to the universal approach of Agenda 2030.<sup>90</sup>

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) (founded in 2001) acts as a security and economic forum for China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Its primary goal is to ensure peace and stability in the region, yet it does not limit its objectives to security-related concerns and includes promotion of cooperation in politics, trade, economy, culture, education, energy, and transportation. The SCO underlines the significance of Afghanistan’s instability as a threat for the

<sup>88</sup> <http://www.greengrowthknowledge.org/big-e/carec-support-regional-cooperation-sdg-implementation-central-asia>

<sup>89</sup> [Regional\\_Environmental\\_Center\\_for\\_Central\\_Asia\\_\(CAREC\)\\_Annual\\_report\\_2015-2015](#)

[Regional\\_Environmental\\_Center\\_for\\_Central\\_Asia\\_CAREC\\_2015\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](#) At the time of writing, the web site of the environmental CAREC was hacked.

<sup>90</sup> <http://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2016/11/02/regional-conference-towards-a-common-vision-for-agenda-2030-in-central-asia.html>

neighboring countries, and works as a political proxy to address the concerns of its member-states, calling for a dialogue between Afghanistan and its neighbours on a wide range of issues.

The Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) is developing as an economic and political union of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and the Russian Federation. The main objective of the organization is to finalize the Customs and economic union among its Member States, including through trade facilitation, expecting it to lead to faster economic growth.

The support, which the SPECA countries receive from the European Union (EU), is increasingly focused on the SDGs. The EU partnership with the Central Asian countries provides development assistance and promotes the EU values in the subregion, focusing on sustainable development. EU's engagement in Central Asia relates to many aspects of SPECA's work, including the agenda of all TWGs on water and energy, trade, transport, knowledge-based development, gender and economy, and statistics. These targets are facilitated through such investment promotion instruments as the Investment Facility for Central Asia (IFCA), set up in 2010 as part of the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), to provide necessary resources for the development of the Central Asian countries. Concrete examples of EU support include projects in the areas of statistics.

Another global organization assisting SPECA countries is the World Bank, which recognizes the significance of diversity in this subregion, and utilizes various tools to provide assistance to raise living standards, promote economic growth, social development, and sustainable environmental practices. These practices could be established through cross-border cooperation among the countries, and this involves dialogue on migration policies and general collaboration on urgent sustainable development matters. On such issues as water management and coping with environmental threats in the subregion, the World Bank collaborates with the SPECA WG on water, energy, and environment.

As an international financial organization, the World Bank provides research-based assistance on trade promotion and developing cross-border transport systems. The major partners in this area are such economically significant countries as Russia and China. As part of the abovementioned CAREC, the World Bank assists the creation of International Transit Corridors to promote trans-boundary trade in the subregion.

GIZ contributes extensively to the reinforcement of SGD targets in SPECA countries. GIZ promoted, for example, an important programme in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, to support regional dialogue between various organizations by holding regular business forums that bring together representatives of national business associations and private companies from the countries, encouraging cross-border networking. As part of the International Leadership Training (ILT) courses on Transnational Trade and Sustainability Management, technical experts and managers from Central Asia receive training in their area of technical expertise during a one-year stay in Germany. They develop knowledge-transfer projects for implementation in their organizations after returning to their home countries. Additional training and dialogue initiatives in the partner countries help set the stage for the returning technical specialists and managers. These initiatives deal with the two main programme areas of transport and logistics, and economic and trade promotion. Follow-up workshops are held in the Central Asian countries. They include a competition to identify the best transfer projects, for example. The winning projects receive further support in the form of more training and equipment.

Total USAID grant assistance during the period 1993 to 2013 is estimated at over \$2 billion, divided among Kazakhstan (about 30 percent), the Kyrgyz Republic (about 30 percent), Tajikistan (about 10 percent), Turkmenistan (about 5 percent), Uzbekistan (about 20 percent), and regional, non-country specific allocations (almost 5 percent). Initially, programmes focused on three main "transitions": one involving an economic transition towards more market-based economies, a second one supporting a political transition towards more effective, transparent, and democratic governance, and a third one promoting sustainable approaches to the social sectors, especially health and education. Twenty years

later, USAID remains vitally involved from a development standpoint in issues related to economic growth, good governance, and social sector improvements in Central Asia.<sup>91</sup>

United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia (UNRCC), FIATA and other business associations and companies have developed their programmes to support the SDGs, including in Central Asia, Afghanistan and Azerbaijan.

## 7. List of SDG targets that can be better achieved through subregional cooperation in SPECA

The SPECA TWGs identified a list of SDGs and targets, which (1) correspond to their mandates, (2) correspond to the priorities and needs of the SPECA participating countries, and (3) subregional cooperation can substantively help their achievement. Implementation of these SDGs and targets would then help the SPECA countries in achieving the whole complex of SDGs.

The WG on Water, Energy and the Environment:

- SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation), target 6.5, and
- SDG 7 (Affordable and clean energy), targets 7.1 and 7.2.

The WG on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity:

- SDG 3 (Good health and wellbeing), target 3.6;
- SDG 7 (Affordable and clean energy), target 7.3;
- SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), target 9.1;
- SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), target 11.2; and
- SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production), target 12.c.

The WG on Trade:

- SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), targets 17.10, and 17.11. The WG made tangible contribution to progress on target 17.10 through a SPECA Trade Policy Forum in Ashgabat in May 2016 (notably on WTO accession), national WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement readiness assessments and trainings for trade facilitation implementation.

The WG on Knowledge-Based Development:

- SDGs 8 (Decent work and economic growth), targets 8.2 and 8.3;
- SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), targets 9.1, 9.4, 9.5, 9b and 9c.
- SDG 13 (combat climate change and its impacts), targets 13.1, 13.3
- SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), targets 17.1, 17.2

The WG on Gender and the Economy:

- SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), in particular targets 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5, 5a, 5b, and 5c

Reflecting the gender dimension and mainstreaming gender, the following SDGs were identified:

- SDG 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), targets 1.4 and 1.b
- SDG 4 (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all) targets 4.4, 4.5 and 4.7
- SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth), targets 8.3, 8.5, 8.8 and 8.10.
- SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), targets 9.1, 9.3 and 9c.
- SDG 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries), targets 10.2, 10.3 and 10.4.

The WG on Statistics has a specific role, as the collection, processing and analysis of statistics is of high importance for the review and monitoring of progress in the achievement of all SDGs. Consequently, the Group will continue its general work on building capacity in the statistical systems of the SPECA countries to collect and process statistics. Targets 17.18 and 17.19 of SDG 17 (Partnerships) partly cover these objectives.

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<sup>91</sup> <https://www.usaid.gov/central-asia-regional/rdcs>

The above list of SDGs and targets, which the SPECA TWGs have selected for future work, in consultation with the SPECA Governments, may become an SDG framework, on which to concentrate the implementation of the SPECA Programme, in order to support the participating countries in achieving the identified SDGs and targets.

## 8. Recommendations

Based on the survey and analysis above, this study recommends:

- 8.1. to the SPECA Thematic Working Groups (TWGs), UNECE and UNESCAP to:
  - 8.1.1. Find practical ways for strengthening subregional cooperation around the list of SDGs and targets indicated in this report (section 7), which would become a framework for strengthening SPECA's role in assisting the implementation of SDGs in the SPECA participating countries;
  - 8.1.2. Facilitate SDG implementation by supporting practical and political subregional cooperation identified for the various SPECA areas of work; use the work programmes of the various TWGs as the instruments to achieve this;
  - 8.1.3. Use SPECA and its WGs to provide an important platform for peer-to-peer learning and exchange of information to achieve the above goal.
  - 8.1.4. Reinvigorate the dialogue on SDG implementation with the SPECA countries' Governments, UNDG, the UNCTs, and other organizations working on the implementation of the SDGs in the SPECA countries, notably organizations that support regional cooperation;
  - 8.1.5. Invite organizations participating in the UNDG to support actively subregional efforts for the implementation of SDGs, contribute to the work of the SPECA TWGs on the SDGs; and carry out subregional projects in support of implementation.
  - 8.1.6. Assist the relevant agencies in the SPECA countries in enhancing data collection and statistical capacity for the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda; assist the countries in developing mechanisms publishing and reporting data to monitor progress in the implementation of the SDGs;
  - 8.1.7. Help identify and promote financing for sustainable development, including from alternative and innovative sources;
- 8.2. to Governments of SPECA participating countries to:
  - 8.2.1. Integrate, to the extent possible, identified SDGs into national development planning;
  - 8.2.2. Make an effort to promote further policy coherence, consistency, and coordination in achieving SDGs;
  - 8.2.3. Plan for the diversification of the SPECA countries' economies and foreign trade, with a view to align them to the SDGs, leverage science, technology, and innovation in support of Agenda 2030;
  - 8.2.4. Intensify the exchange of national and cross-border experiences in planning and implementing SDGs; build subregional South-South partnerships for achieving the SDGs;
  - 8.2.5. Use national and subregional best practices to exchange experiences to be used as "role models" for organizing the implementation of SDGs;
  - 8.2.6. Clarify the challenges and objectives in the work for mainstreaming gender and achieving gender equality in the SPECA participating countries.
- 8.3. to UNECE and ESCAP to:
  - 8.3.1. Promote the work on the SDGs in the SPECA framework. Present the findings of this study at Regional Forums on Sustainable Development<sup>92</sup> and other events

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<sup>92</sup> <http://www.unece.org/rfsd2017#/>

- 8.3.2. Further use established performance assessments and reviews in various fields (e.g. UNECE’s Environmental Performance Reviews; PPP Readiness Assessments; Innovation and Sustainable Development Reviews; Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management; Global Assessments of National Statistical Systems; Reports on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade, etc.) to reinforce the work in support of implementing the SDGs in the SPECA setting;
- 8.3.3. Promote technical cooperation services, including in the framework of UNDAF/UNSD (advisory services; capacity-building training; technical cooperation projects) to support the SPECA SDG agenda;
- 8.3.4. Discuss and promote the findings of this study at the meetings of the SPECA Thematic Working Groups; and at the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the SPECA Governing Council and the 2017 SPECA Economic Forum.
- 8.4. Countries undertaking voluntary national reviews are encouraged to review and use this study in their review exercises. Explore the possibility to carry out voluntary review on progress in the implementation of the SDGs on subregional SPECA level, in compliance with paragraph 79 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## 9. Conclusion

The survey carried out by the consultant indicated that all SPECA countries, the SPECA Thematic Working Groups (TWGs), the UNCTs and other stakeholders assess subregional cooperation as a necessary element for the overall work on implementing the SDGs. All countries and Working Groups noted that subregional cooperation is needed. This is especially the case in the areas of Water, Energy, and the Environment, Trade, and Sustainable Transport. Subregional cooperation is important for each of the SPECA countries, and each of them has demonstrated examples of improvement and solutions produced through subregional cooperation.

The survey and this study have indicated that the original rationale for the SPECA Programme, stated in the Tashkent Declaration of 26 March 1998<sup>93</sup>, for strengthening subregional cooperation among the landlocked countries of Central Asia, Afghanistan and Azerbaijan, and their integration into the world economy, is still valid. It is important for the achievement of priority SDGs and targets in the subregion. They showed that the two regional commissions – UNECE and ESCAP – assume their responsibilities to assist the SPECA countries in stepping up their subregional cooperation for the achievement of the SDGs, working with other development partners, and engaging in the mobilization of additional voluntary contributions, targeted UN resources and funding from development partners.

Working with the SPECA TWGs, the Governments of the SPECA countries, the UNCTs, and other development partners, the consultant and the UN secretariat managed to identify a concise and feasible for achievement list of SDGs and targets, which would significantly benefit from subregional cooperation. The annual sessions of the six SPECA TWGs have taken decisions to work on these SDGs and targets, within their mandates, and to include them in their work programmes.

It is evident that the SPECA countries need subregional cooperation to face the continuing security, economic and environmental challenges in Central Asia, and to secure sustainable development. The decisions of the SPECA Governing Council sessions in 2015 and 2016 to use SPECA as a platform for subregional cooperation to achieve the SDGs were taken in response to these challenges.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages Member States to conduct regular and inclusive, country-led and country-driven reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels. Such reviews draw on contributions from Governments, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders. Follow-up and review at the SPECA subregional level would provide useful opportunities

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<sup>93</sup> <https://www.unece.org/speca/td.html>



for peer learning, including through voluntary reviews, and sharing of best practices and discussion on shared targets.<sup>94</sup>

Various regional programmes and organizations are active in Central Asia, and this study mapped many of these organizations and activities. SPECA, however, is the only grouping bringing together only the countries of the subregion to exchange experiences, build a common vision, and look for common solutions. The Ganja Declaration of 23 November 2016 stipulates that SPECA can provide the intergovernmental cooperative framework to achieve the SDGs in several key areas, including water management, rational use of the subregion's energy wealth, sustainable transport, trade, knowledge-based development, innovation, gender equality and strengthening statistical capacity for monitoring progress. This paper identified a list of SDGs and targets (see section 7 above), which can serve as a framework for future work of the SPECA TWGs, the SPECA countries, UNECE and ESCAP, in collaboration with UN and other development partners, in supporting subregional cooperation and achieving sustainable development.

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<sup>94</sup> Based upon <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

## 10. Annexes

Annex I: Matrix of SDGs and the focus of SPECA's work<sup>95</sup>

Thematic Working Group	Water, Energy & Environment	Sustainable Transport, Transit & Connectivity	Trade and Trade Facilitation	Knowledge-Based Development	Gender and Economy	Statistics
<b>1. SDGs and targets selected for work by the SPECA TWGs</b>	SDG 6 target 6.5 SDG 7: target 7.1 & 7.2	SDG 3 target 3.6 SDG 7 target 7.3 SDG 9, target 9.1 SDG 11 target 11.2 SDG 12 target 12.c	SDG 17 targets 17.10 & 17.11	SDG 8, targets 8.2, 8.3, SDG 9, targets 9.1, 9.4, 9.5, 9.b & 9.c SDG 13, targets 13.1, 13.3 SDG 17 targets 17.1, 17.2	SDG 5: 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5, 5a, 5b, and 5c. SDG 1: 1.4, 1.b SDG 4: 4.4, 4.5 and 4.7 SDG 8: 8.3, 8.5, 8.8 & 8.10. SDG 9: 9.1, 9.3 and 9c. SDG 10: 10.2, 10.3 and 10.4.	All SDGs notably SDG 17, targets 17.18 & 17.19
<b>2. If the above SDGs and targets are achieved this will affect the achievement of which SDGs?</b>	SDG 1 (1.5) SDG 2 (2.4) SDG 3 (3.9) SDG 6, all SDG 7, all SDG 11 (11.5) SDG 11 (12.4) SDG 13 SDG 14 SDG 15	SDG 8, target 8.8, SDG 9, Target 9A, 9B, 9C; SDG 12, target 12.3; SDG 13, Target 13.1 and 13.2 SDG 17, target 17.1, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10, 17.16, 17.17 and 17.18;	SDG 1 SDG 2 (2.3, 2.b & 2.c) SDG 3 (3.b) SDG 8 (8.1, 8.2, 8.4, 8.5, 8.a) SDG 9 (9.3 & 9.c) SDG 10 (10.a) SDG 14 (14.4, 14.5, 14.6, 14.7, & 14.b) SDG 15 (15.7 & 15.c) SDG 16 (16.4, 16.5, 16.6, & 16.8) SDG 17 (17.1, 17.6-17.19)	SDG 1 (1.4) SDG 4 SDG 5.b SDG 11 SDG 12 (12a)	All SDGs, as gender equality has to be mainstreamed in all SDGs	All SDGs In particular SDGs 16, 17
<b>3. What are the SDGs selected by the SPECA countries as priority; on which they plan activities?</b>	SDG 2 SDG 6 SDG 7 SDG 5 SDG 12 SDG 13 SDG 14 SDG 16 SDG 17	SDG 3 SDG 7 SDG 8 SDG 9 SDG 10 SDG 11	SDG 8 SDG 10 SDG 17	SDG 1 SDG 4 SDG 5 SDG 8 SDG 9 SDG 10	SDG 1 SDG 4 SDG 5 SDG 8 SDG 9 SDG 10	SDG 16 SDG 17
<b>AF<sup>96</sup></b>	SDG 2 SDG 6 SDG 7 SDG 13 SDG 15	SDG 3 SDG 9	SDG 8	SDG 9	SDG 1 SDG 4 SDG 5 SDG 8 SDG 9 SDG 10	SDG 17
<b>AZ<sup>97</sup></b>	SDG 6 SDG 7 SDG 12 SDG 13 SDG 14 SDG 15	SDG 3 SDG 7 SDG 9	SDG: 8 (8.11) SDG: 10 SDG: 17 (17.10 & 17.12)	SDG 1 SDG 3 SDG 5 SDG 8 SDG 9 SDG 10	SDG 4 SDG 5 SDG 8 SDG 9 SDG 10	SDG 16 SDG 17

<sup>95</sup> We use here the UNECE-UNCEFACT-ISO codes for countries: AF – Afghanistan; AZ – Azerbaijan; KZ – Kazakhstan; TJ – Tajikistan; TM – Turkmenistan; and UZ - Uzbekistan

<sup>96</sup> <http://www.daghammarskjold.se/event/implementing-agenda-2030-priorities-challenges-afghanistan/>

<sup>97</sup> Note Verbal, Permanent mission of Azerbaijan to the UN Ref :0377/11/16/02

Thematic Working Group	Water, Energy & Environment	Sustainable Transport, Transit & Connectivity	Trade and Trade Facilitation	Knowledge-Based Development	Gender and Economy	Statistics
	SDG 17			SDG 11 SDG 16		
<b>KZ</b> <sup>98</sup>	SDG 6 SDG 7 SDG 13 SDG 14 SDG 15	SDG 8 SDG 9 SDG 11	SDG 8 SDG 10 SDG 17	SDG 9 SDG 13	SDG 4 SDG 5 SDG 8 SDG 9 SDG 10	SDG 16 SDG 17
<b>KG</b> <sup>99</sup>	SDG 6 SDG 7 SDG 12 SDG 13 SDG 15	SDG 9	SDG 8 SDG 10 SDG 17	SDG: 1 (1.5) SDG: 3 (3d) SDG: 9 SDG: 11 (11.5, 11.b) SDG: 13 (13.1, 13.3) SDG: 15 (15.3) SDG: 16 (16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.9 & 16.10)	SDG 5 (5.4 & 5.a)	SDG 16 SDG 17
<b>TJ</b> <sup>100</sup>	SDG 6 SDG 7 SDG 13 SDG 15	SDG 7	SDG 17 (17.9 – 17.15)	SDG 4 (4.b) SDG 8 (8.2) SDG 9 (9.a, 9.b, 9.c) SDG 13 SDG 14 (14.a) SDG 15 SDG 17 (17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9 & 17.17)	SDG 5 (5.4, 5.5, 5.a, 5.b & 5.c)	SDG 16 SDG 17
<b>TM</b> <sup>101</sup>	SDG 7 (7.1, 7.2 & 7.3) SDG 13 (13.1, 13.2 & 13.3) SDG 14 SDG 15 (15.1, 15.2, 15.3 & 15.4)	SDG 9 (9.1, 9.3 & 9.4) SDG 11 (11.2, 11.4 & 11.6) SDG 12 (12.1, 12.4, 12.6 & 12.8)	SDG 10 (10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.5, 10.6 & 10.7) SDG 17 (17.1, 17.3, 17.6, 17.11, 17.11, 17.13, 17.14, 17.17 & 17.18)	SDG 1 (1.5) SDG 9 (9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 9.a & 9.c) SDG 11 (11.b) SDG 12 (12.7) SDG 13 (13.1)	SDG 5 (5.1 - 5.6 & 5.a - 5.c)	N/A
<b>UZ</b> <sup>102</sup>	SDG 6 SDG 7 SDG 13 SDG 14 SDG 15	SDG 9	SDG 8	SDG 9 SDG 13	SDG 1 SDG 4 SDG 5 SDG 8 SDG 9 SDG 10	SDG 16 SDG 17
<b>4. What are UNCTs and international organizations doing on these SDGs?</b>	RECCA: expand infrastructure (transport and energy); advance regional economic linkages (trade and investment) CAREC: SDGs on water, climate change and environment RECI: upgrade energy security	WB – transport corridor Center-South	GIZ – trade facilitation in Central Asia UNDP “Wider Europe: Aid for Trade in CA project”	RECCA focuses on development of human resources (education and training) UNECE – leveraging science, technology and innovation UNDP Kyrgyzstan “Effective	UN Women – Strategic Plan (2017-2021) SDG 1 (1.2, 1.3) SDG 2 (2.1, 2.3) SDG 3 (5.2,5.4) SDG 6 (6.1) SDG 7 (7.1) SDG 8 (8.1,8.2) SDG 9 (9.1) SDG 10 (10.1) SDG 13 (13.1)	UNECE – enhancing data and statistical capacities UNEP/UNECE – supporting countries on environmental statistics on SDGs

<sup>98</sup> SPECA Survey, Kazakhstan GVT

<sup>99</sup> SPECA Survey, Kyrgyzstan UNCT

<sup>100</sup> SPECA Survey, Tajikistan UNCT

<sup>101</sup> SPECA Survey, Turkmenistan UNCT

<sup>102</sup> Materials of Joint UN-GVT Retreat, November 11-12, 2016, Uzbekistan

Thematic Working Group	Water, Energy & Environment	Sustainable Transport, Transit & Connectivity	Trade and Trade Facilitation	Knowledge-Based Development	Gender and Economy	Statistics
	<p>UN ISDR, UN OCHA, UNDP, CEDRR: project of ECO DRR in CA (SDG 1.5; 2.4; 11.5; 13.1)  ICSD: regional cooperation on climate change<sup>103</sup>  EU CAREC-MONECA initiative: (Environmental Monitoring in Central Asia)  USAID project in Kazakhstan on greenhouse gas emissions.  World Bank project in Kazakhstan "Adaptation to climate change and mitigation of the Aral Sea Basin".  UNDP Project in Kazakhstan "Preparation of National Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation"</p>			<p>Disaster Risk Management for Sustainable Human Development and Security"</p>	<p>SDG 17 (17.1)<sup>104</sup>  UNDP/UNICEF: "Women as Peaceful Voters &amp; Women as Candidates"  UNDP: INL funded SGBV in Kyrgyzstan  ADB: Women Entrepreneurs in Development Projects  UN Women: Building a Constituency for Peace.  UN Women, UNFPA and IOM: Building evidence base to facilitate responsive gender policy and programs for equality and lasting peace in Kyrgyzstan. "Gender in Society" perception study  UNDP Aid for Trade project in Tajikistan  UN Women project in Tajikistan "Empowering women abandoned by migrants"  UN Women project "Promotion of Women's Economic Rights in Uzbekistan"</p>	
<p><b>5. SPECA subregional cooperation on will benefit the achievement of which SDGs, supported by the SPECA TWGs?</b></p>	<p>SDG 6: target 6.5; and SDG 7: targets 7.1 &amp; 7.2</p>	<p>SDG 3, target 3.6;  SDG 7, target 7.3  SDG 8;  SDG 9, target 9.1;  SDG 11, target 11.2;  SDG 12, target 12.c</p>	<p>SDG 17: targets 17.10 &amp; 17.11</p>	<p>SDG 8 and 9</p>	<p>SDG 5</p>	<p>All SDGs  In particular SDGs 16, 17</p>

<sup>103</sup> ICSD, Batyr Mamedov, Regional Conference "Towards a Common Vision for Agenda 2030 in Central Asia" Almaty, Kazakhstan, 2-4 November 2016

<sup>104</sup> UNWomen presentation at Regional Conference "Towards a Common Vision for Agenda 2030 in Central Asia" Almaty, Kazakhstan, 2-4 November 2016

## Annex II: Digital Library

1. Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 – United Nations General Assembly [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E)
2. About SPECA – UNECE <http://www.unece.org/speca/welcome.html>
3. Afghanistan’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan <http://mfa.gov.af/en/page/6547/afghanistans-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs>
4. Afghanistan and Sustainable Development Goals – Pajhwok Afghan News <http://www.pajhwok.com/en/opinions/afghanistan-and-sustainable-development-goals>
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6. Afghanistan National Development Strategy – UNDAF Website
7. A digital agenda for development and social change 2015-2024, MCIT of IRA <http://mcit.gov.af/Content/files/Draft-ICT%20Policy%20Document.pdf>
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10. Azerbaijan Overview – UNDP website <http://www.az.undp.org/content/azerbaijan/en/home/ourwork/overview.html>
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14. SDG Azerbaijan Overview – UNDP website [http://www.az.undp.org/content/azerbaijan/en/home/ourwork/indepth\\_sd.html](http://www.az.undp.org/content/azerbaijan/en/home/ourwork/indepth_sd.html)
15. Note Verbal, Permanent mission of Azerbaijan to the UN Ref :0377/11/16/02
16. Regional survey by UNECE and the Regional UN Development Group for Europe and Central Asia Geneva and New York, 2 December 2015, [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/sustainable-development/Azerbaijan\\_Regional\\_SDG\\_survey.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/sustainable-development/Azerbaijan_Regional_SDG_survey.pdf)
17. Concept for Transition of the Republic of Kazakhstan to a Green Economy – UNDAF website <https://undg.org/home/country-teams/europe-central-asia/kazakhstan/>
18. Kazakhstan Country Analysis Report, UNCT – UNDAF website <https://undg.org/home/country-teams/europe-central-asia/kazakhstan/>
19. Kazakhstan National Development Strategy 2050 – UNDAF website <https://undg.org/home/country-teams/europe-central-asia/kazakhstan/>
20. SPECA Survey, Kazakhstan GVT, 2016
21. Kyrgyzstan National Sustainable Development Strategy – UNESCO website <https://webapps01.un.org/nvp/indpolicy.action?id=3001>
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27. Statement by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, His Excellency Emomali Rahmon at the Opening Ceremony of the High-Level Symposium on SDG 6 and Targets: Ensuring that No One is Left Behind in Access to Water and Sanitation – Water SDG <http://watersdg2016.org/statement->

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## Annex III: The Sustainable Development Goals and Targets

### Sustainable Development Goals

- Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts<sup>105\*</sup>
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

### Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.

1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.

1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.

1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-

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<sup>105</sup> Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.



poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions.

## **Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture**

- 2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.
- 2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.
- 2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.
- 2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.
- 2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.
- 2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries.
- 2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round.
- 2.c Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

## **Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**

- 3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.
- 3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births.
- 3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.
- 3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.
- 3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.
- 3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.
- 3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.
- 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.
- 3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.

3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate.

3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all.

3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States.

3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

#### **Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**

4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.

4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.

4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.

4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.

4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.

4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

4.b By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries.

4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States

#### **Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.

5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

## **Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**

6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.

6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.

6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.

6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.

6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies.

6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

## **Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**

7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.

7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.

7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology.

7.b By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, and land-locked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support.

## **Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**

8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries.

8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors.

8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-,

small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.

8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead.

8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.

8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.

8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.

8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.

8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all.

8.a Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries.

8.b By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization.

### **Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation**

9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.

9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries.

9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets.

9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities.

9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending.

9.a Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

9.b Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities.

9.c Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020.

### **Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries**

10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average.

10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of

age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.

10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.

10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations.

10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions.

10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

10.a Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements.

10.b Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes.

10.c By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent.

### **Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.

11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.

11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.

11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.

11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning.

11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels.

11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials.

### **Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**

12.1 Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries.

12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.

12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle.

12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities.

12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.

12.a Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.

12.c Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities.

### **Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts<sup>106\*</sup>**

13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.

13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

13.a Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible.

13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.

### **Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**

14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.

14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.

14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels.

14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum

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<sup>106</sup> Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.

14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.

14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation.

14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.

14.a Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries.

14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.

14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want.

**Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.

15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.

15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.

15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development.

15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed.

15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.

15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species.

15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.

15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems.

15.b Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation.

15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities.

## **Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**

- 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.
- 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.
- 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.
- 16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.
- 16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.
- 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.
- 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.
- 16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.
- 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.
- 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.
- 16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.
- 16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.

## **Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development**

### **Finance**

- 17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.
- 17.2 Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries.
- 17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources.
- 17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress.
- 17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries.

### **Technology**

- 17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.
- 17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed.
- 17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology.

### **Capacity-building**

- 17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.



## **Trade**

17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda.

17.11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020.

17.12 Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access.

## **Systemic issues**

### *Policy and institutional coherence*

17.13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence.

17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.

17.15 Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

### *Multi-stakeholder partnerships*

17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries.

17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.

### *Data, monitoring and accountability*

17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries.