



# UNECE

## UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

KAZAKHSTAN

## INTRODUCTION

UNECE technical cooperation activities form an integral part of the work of UNECE and are aimed at improving the capacity of member States to implement UNECE legal instruments, norms and standards as a means of their integration in the region and the world economy. All technical cooperation activities have a strong regional or subregional dimension and aim to provide common solutions to transboundary problems. Further, our activities support member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UNECE contributes to 11 core SDGs: SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 15 (life on land), together with the overarching contribution to SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals).

This brochure provides a snapshot of the technical cooperation activities delivered by UNECE to support Kazakhstan in its efforts towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by reaching the relevant SDGs and their targets.

## TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES BY SDGs



**Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages**

### ***Target 3.6. By 2020 halve global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents***

The *UN Convention on Road Traffic (1968) and Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1968)*, to which Kazakhstan is party, aims to improve road safety by defining unified traffic rules and signs and signals to be applied among its 78, and 66 respective contracting parties. Countries party to the Convention have significantly lower road related deaths and injuries.

The *UN Agreement on the Adoption of Uniform Technical Prescriptions for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be fitted and/or be used on Wheeled Vehicles and the Conditions for Reciprocal Recognition of Approvals Granted on the Basis of these Prescriptions (1958)*, to which Kazakhstan is party, aims to improve road safety by standardizing vehicle safety standards. Contracting parties (53) which efficiently implement the Agreements and its Regulations have lower road related deaths and injuries.

UNECE will organize the *Road Safety Performance Review (RSPR) of Kazakhstan (2019)*. The RSPR aims to help strengthen the road safety management capacities and effectively address and improve national road safety records. The most critical road safety aspects will be identified by preparing a RSPR with recommendations on how to tackle the most pressing road safety issues. Based on the findings, further training will be provided on the priority areas, and on the accession and implementation of UN road-safety related legal instruments.

### ***Target 3.9. By 2030 substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination***

The *Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution*, to which Kazakhstan is party, sets strict reduction targets for key harmful pollutants. In the framework of the Convention, UNECE is strengthening the capacity of national experts to improve and maintain emission inventories of air pollutants

and develop emission projections and reduction targets. UNECE has assisted Kazakhstan with the calculation of gridded emission data, emission projection and the preparation of an Informative Inventory Report. The capacity-building programme under the Convention also contribute to SDG targets 11.6 and 12.4, among others.

The *Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA)*, is an initiative supporting national efforts for improving air quality and protecting public health and ecosystems, which was endorsed at the 8<sup>th</sup> Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 2016). This mechanism aims to foster technical cooperation and help countries to access funding sources for further projects.



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

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

***Target 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***

The UNECE and WHO Regional Office for Europe *Protocol on Water and Health*, to which Kazakhstan is currently in the process of accession, supports countries to set national targets on water and health with the aim of reducing outbreaks of the water-borne diseases, and thus contributing to reach the SDG 3 on good health and well-being. Furthermore, the Protocol can thereby translate and operationalize the achievement of SDG 6 in the national context, depending on the country capacity and needs. The national targets already developed in the context of the Protocol are aimed at providing access to clean water and safe sanitation for all, as well as improving water quality and increasing water-use efficiency.

***Target 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***

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

Kazakhstan is party to the *Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses International Lakes (Water Convention)*, which protects and ensures the quantity, quality and sustainable use of transboundary water resources by facilitating regional cooperation.

In 2017, Kazakhstan launched the *International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC)*, a collaborative centre of the Water Convention. Based in Astana, the Centre aims to support the implementation and application of the Water Convention, its Protocol on Water and Health and the respective programmes of work in the Central Asian region and beyond.

Kazakhstan is part of UNECE's project "*Capacity-building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia (phase 3)*" (2017–2020). The project aims to strengthen national and subregional capacities of Central Asian countries for developing and implementing institutional, regulatory and technical frameworks for dam safety. The project provides a platform for inter-state cooperation on dam safety, supports the drafting of national legislation on dam safety, organizes roundtables and seminars, and subregional capacity-building events to "train the trainers" on dam safety.

Through the project *Enhancing climate resilience and adaptive capacity in the transboundary Chu Talas basin*, funded by the Government of Finland (2015–2018) and the GEF project *Enabling Transboundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Chu and Talas River Basins*" (2015-2018), UNECE in cooperation with UNDP is producing climate scenario analyses to inform adaptive integrated management of the transboundary Chu-Talas River basin shared by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The project is improving bilateral cooperation between the countries on the river's water resources, building on the successful completion of previous projects that started the cooperation. Implementation of pilot climate change adaptation measures in the Kyrgyz part of the basin is also foreseen, including restoration of valuable floodplain forests, training on water efficiency measures and support for the Kirov dam safety project. These measures are supported by an information and awareness-raising campaign.

The EU-funded project *Supporting Kazakhstan's Transition to a Green Economy Model* (2015–2018), implemented by UNDP in partnership with UNECE, contributes to Kazakhstan's long-term environmental sustainability and inclusive economic development, supporting the country's transition to a

Green Economy Model. UNECE is promoting cooperation between Kazakhstan and its neighbours on shared water resources, for example with the Russian Federation on the Ural River. The project aims to introduce a modern environmental governance system, state-of-the-art water management policies and practices, enhanced environmental impact assessment procedures and economic incentives for sustainable use of water resources in Kazakhstan. UNECE is also providing training for national and local stakeholders on transboundary water cooperation and basin management, as well as teacher training for several universities on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

Kazakhstan actively participated in the recently concluded assessment of interlinkages, trade-offs and benefits in *the Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in the Syr Darya River Basin*. The aim of the assessment was to foster transboundary cooperation and to help optimize resource use in order to improve sustainability, efficiency and resource security in the riparian countries. In practice, the process involved joint identification of intersectoral issues in the management of water, land, energy and ecosystem resources and determined possible actions related to information, governance, policy and economic instruments, infrastructure and international cooperation. These actions and recommendations, developed with a broad set of stakeholders from the riparian countries, are promoted in policy processes in the region beyond water management, including in cooperation with the energy sector.



### Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

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

The project *Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia* (2016-2019) assists Kazakhstan and other participating countries to prepare and implement a national action plan for sustainable energy. UNECE is also helping national stakeholders address gaps in statistical indicators for monitoring developments in sustainable energy in accordance with United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. UNECE recently organized a training course to strengthen the capacity of Central Asian countries to transition to sustainable energy policy and practices

based on the recommendations of the Environmental Performance Reviews conducted in the region.

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

Through the recently concluded project *Promoting Renewable Energy Investments for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Development*, UNECE helped Kazakhstan prepare an inventory of renewable energy project proposals ready to attract financing. The project raised the capabilities of national stakeholders to prepare bankable renewable energy projects. Kazakhstan prepared one large-scale project with an estimated total of \$51million.

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

UNECE recently organized training courses in Kazakhstan for increasing energy efficiency in buildings, and on the role of coal in contributing to enhancing efficiency, environmental performance and reliability of the country's energy mix.

UNECE is training national experts from Kazakh authorities to collect comprehensive and higher quality national data on sustainable energy in compliance with international standards, including the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

The project *Integrated energy and water resource management in support of sustainable development in South-East Europe and Central Asia (2018-2021)* aims to develop an integrated management and monitoring tool focused on interconnecting energy and water systems and helping to manage the impact of energy production on water systems. The project will assist the beneficiary countries to identify and develop best practices and measures to apply a crosscutting approach to energy and water management. Kazakhstan has a large hydro-energy potential, which can be improved by increasing awareness of water-energy intersectoral links and impacts.

***Target 7A. 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***

Kazakhstan is part of the UNECE project *Improving national capacities of Central Asian countries to harmonize and implement internationally applicable system of classification and sustainable management of energy and mineral resources* (2017-2019). The project helps countries to implement the international standard UN Framework Classification (UNFC) of energy and mineral resources. Through the UNFC, countries can produce accurate and internationally comparable estimates of their current and future supply of energy and minerals. Consistent estimates allow for effective energy and resource management.



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

***Target 8.4. Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to de-couple 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***

In the framework of the *Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention)*, to which Kazakhstan has been party since 2001, UNECE provides the country with legislative assistance to align national legislation with the provisions of the Convention, and supports capacity building for the implementation of the Convention by, for example, promoting best practices and providing guidelines for its application at the subregional level in Central Asia.

Since early 2017, Kazakhstan has been *considering joining the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)* to the Espoo Convention. In 2017, further to the results of review of national legal framework vis-à-vis the provisions of the Protocol on SEA, a feasibility study of legislative reforms on EIA and SEA was discussed with members of the national Parliament and governmental authorities. Since October 2017, UNECE has been assisting Kazakhstan in the development of legislation (primarily, the Environmental Code) and through support to practical steps towards the integration of SEA procedures in its planning and programming processes. SEA enables the prevention of irreversible and costly mistakes by integrating environmental considerations at an early stage of preparing governmental plans and



programmes in economic sectors through an assessment that also covers impacts on human health.

UNECE also supports Kazakhstan to carry out a pilot project on SEA for the *Concept of the Fuel and Energy Complex of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2030*. A key issue is the identification of contributions by the Kazakh energy sector to climate change and development of proper adaptation and mitigation measures (see more information about the pilot project under the SDG 7).

Kazakhstan is part of the UNECE project *The UNECE Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian Countries*. Initially drafted in 2007, and updated in 2017, the Guidelines are a tool for Central Asian countries to implement the transboundary EIA procedures in accordance with the ESPOO Convention. The guidelines provide further guidance on the application of the transboundary EIA procedure in accordance with the Convention, while also taking into account the subregional and national contexts. The preparatory process has brought the countries closer together, facilitating common understanding and dialogue at the subregional level concerning the EIA procedure that helps to ensue sustainable development and prevention of transboundary environmental threats.



**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***

The *Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under cover of TIR carnets (1975)* and *International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982)* are powerful tools for higher transport efficiency. The TIR and Harmonization Conventions significantly contribute to the facilitation of international transport and trade across the borders of its 74 and 58 respective contracting parties, including Kazakhstan.

The UNECE *Euro Asian Transport Links (EATL)* project identified the main Euro-Asian road and rail routes for priority development and cooperation, and

promotes the removal of physical and administrative bottlenecks in inland transport between Europe and Asia. As one of the 38 members of EATL, Kazakhstan benefits from UNECE coordination and facilitation in the development of infrastructural projects.

Through the recently concluded project *Strengthening the logistics and transport competitiveness of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan* UNECE assessed the capacity of transport and logistics infrastructure and connectivity in the beneficiary countries. The aim is to improve transport policy making (both on operations and infrastructure development), focusing on regional connectivity.

Kazakhstan is part of the UNECE-led project *Sustainable transport connectivity and implementation of transport related SDGs in selected landlocked and transit/bridging countries* (2018-2021). The project will strengthen national capacities to design and implement an evidence-based transport policy framework that fosters sustainable transport connectivity and the implementation of transport-related SDGs. An initial set of Sustainable Inland Transport Connectivity Indicators (SITCIN) will be defined to assess effectiveness and efficiency of national transport systems and serve as basis for preparation of the national report with recommendations. A series of capacity building events on SITCIN will follow, to present the proposed set of indicators, introduce and apply them in the national context, and use them as a basis for the development of new and innovative, evidence-based national inland transport policies.

***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***

Kazakhstan is party to the UNECE *Convention on the Transboundary Effect of Industrial Accidents*. The Convention helps countries to prevent industrial accidents that can have transboundary effects and to prepare for, and respond to accidents, if they occur. The UNECE project on *Strengthening Industrial Safety in Central Asia through the implementation of and accession to the Convention* (2016–2019) provides Kazakhstan support to enhance industrial safety and, thus, protecting human health and the environment. The project will further support submission of comprehensive national action plans to address gaps and deficiencies identified through a self-assessment. The project will also contribute to enhancing transboundary cooperation in Central Asia, which

will significantly reduce the risk of occurrence of industrial accidents and increase the ability of countries to respond effectively.

UNECE is also implementing a pilot project on *Strengthening the safety of mining operations, in particular in tailings management facilities (TMFs)*” in Kazakhstan. The project aims to enhance TMF safety in the country, strengthen cooperation mechanisms on water management and TMF safety, and reduce risks of TMF failures in Kazakhstan and more widely in Central Asia.

***Target 9.5. Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, particularly developing countries, including by 2030 encouraging innovation and increasing the number of R&D workers per one million people by x% and public and private R&D spending***

***Target 9B. 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***

As part of the project *Strengthening the capacity of CIS countries in innovative development to improve competitiveness and achieve the SDGs* (2017-2019), UNECE is helping Kazakhstan to implement policy recommendations from the *UNECE Innovation Performance Review* of the country which was conducted in 2012. The project will develop the practical skills of participants for innovation policies, increase the organizational capacity of the institutions involved and strengthen cooperation among relevant stakeholders, including through relevant expert networks.



**Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

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

UNECE prepared a *Country Profile of Housing and Land Management in Kazakhstan* in 2017. The profile assesses the status of housing and land management, identifies priorities and provides recommendations for smart sustainable development at the city level. The profile will increase the capacity

of national authorities to develop effective policies on housing and urban development, to which UNECE will provide continued assistance for implementing the resulting policies.

***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***

Kazakhstan has been actively engaged in the *Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)*. Established in 1998, SPECA improves cooperation in Central Asia, Afghanistan and Azerbaijan and supports integration of the countries into the world economy. The SPECA Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity is a regional platform to cooperate on transport infrastructure development, connectivity, border-crossing facilitation and road safety, in order to enhance the efficiency of regional transport systems. Regular capacity-building activities improve regional transport connectivity and inland transport competitiveness, and strengthens national capacities to design and implement a harmonized legal framework and implement an evidence-based policy for inland transport and the implementation of transport-related SDGs.



## **Ensure sustainable production and consumption patterns**

***Target 12.2. By 2030 achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources***

Activities reported under SDGs 6, 7, 8, and 15 also have a direct contribution to SDG 12.

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

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

The UNECE *Agreement of the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs* (ATP) sets standards for the international transport of perishable foods among its parties. In Kazakhstan, UNECE promotes the facilitation of international transport of perishable foodstuffs by harmonizing the relevant regulations, rules and administrative procedures and documentation for refrigerated transport.

***Target 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***

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

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

The *Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers* (Protocol on PRTRs) to the *UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters* (Aarhus Convention) supports responsible consumption and production by providing a legal framework for ensuring that the related processes are achieved and handled in transparent, inclusive and participatory manner.

Kazakhstan has taken considerable efforts to join the *Protocol on PRTRs* and is part of the GEF *Global Project on the Implementation of Pollutant Release and Transfer Register as a tool for POPs reporting, dissemination and awareness raising*. Launched in January 2017, the project is implemented by UNECE, UNEP and UNITAR. UNECE provides Kazakhstan with continuous capacity-building on the implementation of the Protocol, through developing expertise of the country's diverse professionals at region-wide thematic task force meetings (annually), subregional workshops and global round tables on PRTRs, and by providing specialized guidance material, collections of good practices and online resources for their implementation. Activities under these instruments offer a platform to share experiences and to identify capacity-building needs of country experts with regard to effective access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in

environmental matters, for example, sound chemical management, in fostering access to information on emissions and transfers of wastes. UNECE also coordinates numerous capacity-building activities with partner organizations.

The *Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)* is a mechanism to foster cooperation, including technical, and the exchange of knowledge, know-how and innovative technologies for greening the economy, including the business sector. Kazakhstan joined the initiative with two commitments: establishing an international centre for green technology and investment (relevant to SDGs 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 17); and improving waste management, water resources, agriculture, electric power and energy efficiency. BIG-E operationalizes the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy, which was endorsed at the 8<sup>th</sup> Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Batumi, Georgia, in 2016. BIG-E remains open for more commitments until 2030.



### **Take urgent action to combat climate change and impacts**

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

Activities reported under SDG 6, 7, 8, 11 and 12 have a direct contribution to SDG13.



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

***Target 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***

***Target 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***

Kazakhstan is a beneficiary of the joint UNECE/FAO project *Accountability systems for sustainable forest management in the Caucasus and Central Asia* (2016-2019) which helps countries to create national criteria and indicators and reporting systems for sustainable forest management. As a result of the project, Kazakhstan created their national set of criteria and indicators based on the regional set of the Montreal Process.

Kazakhstan participates in the project on the preparation of the report on *the State of Forests in the Caucasus and Central Asia*. In this region, most countries are ‘low forest cover countries’, where forests fulfil recognized and valuable protective functions such as freshwater renewal and prevention of wind and mudslide erosion, and desertification, but their economic and social functions are often not fully recognized. Because of the specificity of the region’s forests and scarce source data, the forests and forest sector in the Caucasus and Central Asia have not received appropriate attention in the global or regional studies published thus far. Therefore, the report, which is being developed under this project, will present the richness of the region’s forests, their importance and services they provide as well as challenges that are faced by the forest sector in the region.

*Target 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*

*Target 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*

Kazakhstan hosted a Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in the Caucasus and Central Asia, in June 2018 in Astana. Organized by UNECE/FAO in cooperation with IUCN, this was the first opportunity to align national and regional efforts in the Caucasus and Central Asia with the international Bonn Challenge – a global effort to bring 350 million ha of degraded and deforested land into restoration by 2030.



## Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

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

***Target 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***

Kazakhstan is part of the UNECE's project *Strengthening the capacity of Central Asian countries to implement trade facilitation measures and better integrate into the international rules-based trading system* (2018-2019). The project helps countries to implement commitments under the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) that entered into force on 22 February 2017, by providing training, capacity-building and networking activities for policy makers in trade.

Through the project *Evidence-based trade facilitation measures for economies in transition* (2018-2021), UNECE is supporting Kazakhstan's export diversification and regional integration efforts. The project aims at enhancing countries' exports and cross-border trade in their respective sub-regions. The project will help countries apply the UNECE trade facilitation policy recommendations, standards and tools and support the implementation of the provisions of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).

UNECE carried out a comprehensive assessment of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Kazakhstan in 2014. Kazakhstan was part of the recently concluded UNECE project *Removing Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan*. The project produced a comprehensive road map of activities to eliminate the trade barriers; established an electronic database of best practices for removing barriers to trade; and organized workshops and roundtables in each country.

***Target 17.14. Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development***

The third *Environmental Performance Review (EPR)* of Kazakhstan was completed in 2018. The review included issues related to legal and policy



frameworks, greening the economy, air protection, water and waste management, biodiversity and protected areas. The EPR reviewed efforts of the country to integrate environmental considerations in its policies in the energy, industry, agriculture and health sectors. Since 2017, third-cycle EPRs include the review of relevant goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The EPR Programme will support Kazakhstan in achieving many SDGs (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17) and reviewing progress in this regard.

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

Kazakhstan was part of the recently concluded UNECE's project *Strengthening capacity of CIS countries to advance their use of public-private partnerships (PPPs) to achieve the SDGs*. The project provides capacity-building and policy advisory services to facilitate the implementation of PPP standards and therefore improve their delivery.

UNECE provides Kazakhstan with continuous capacity-building on the implementation of the UNECE *Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)*, through developing expertise of the country's diverse professionals at region-wide thematic task force meetings (annually), subregional workshops, and by providing specialized guidance material, collections of good practices and online resources for their implementation. Activities under these instruments offer a platform to share experiences and to identify capacity-building needs of country experts with regard to effective access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters. UNECE also coordinates capacity-building activities with partner organizations. Kazakhstan has been actively engaged in the work under the Convention and its Protocol and established 15 Aarhus Centres across the country to support implementation of these treaties.

***Target 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***

***Target 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***

In 2017, UNECE conducted a Global Assessment of the National Statistics System of Kazakhstan. The report assessed the resources, gaps, focus, tools, coverage and quality, among other areas, of the national statistics. It identified challenges and provided recommendations for improvement. UNECE is continuing to provide consistent support to Kazakhstan for implementing these recommendations.

UNECE provides capacity building support in a wide range of statistical activities. UNECE is helping Kazakhstan to use and disseminate gender statistics by providing training to national stakeholders. UNECE is also helping Kazakhstan to use environment statistics for the SDGs. In 2017, UNECE provided training that increased participants' knowledge on the UN framework for the development of environmental statistics.

Kazakhstan is part of the project *Improved environmental monitoring and assessment in support of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in South-Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus* (2018-2021). The project is strengthening the capacities of national environmental authorities and statistical agencies to collect and produce required data and to use environmental indicators in accordance with the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) principles. It aims to improve the accessibility and use of regularly updated and high quality environmental indicators, within the framework of SEIS, to respond to international indicator-based reporting obligations, including monitoring progress towards the SDGs. The SEIS aims to improve the collection, exchange, dissemination and use of environmental data and information to facilitate regular environmental assessments and reporting by UNECE member States.



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in Kazakhstan**

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