



Informed and Empowered
Society for Democratic
Governance

Extent of SDGs Integration in the National Public Policy System of Georgia



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Introduction

In September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution #A/RES/70/1 and thus launched the Global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets are enshrined in the Resolution and balance three dimensions of sustainable development– economic, social and environmental. Beginning from 2015, the Government of Georgia (GoG) expressed high-level political support to prioritizing SDGs and demonstrated commitment to nationalizing all 17 goals and relevant targets.

In order to ensure effective implementation of the nationalization process, the GoG opted for a horizontal model of integrating existing policy documents in the 2030 Agenda. In contrast with the vertical model, when new overarching sustainable development strategy is developed, horizontal integration implies linking and reflecting the SDGs in existing thematic strategies and action plans.

The given analysis aims at ascertaining to what extent existing national policy documents contain obligations in line with SDG indicators. The evaluation will assist the GoG to identify challenges and take relevant steps in regards to nationalizing specific SDGs.

The document first gives a brief description of the evaluation methodology, after which it provides statistical analysis of existing linkages between the SDGs and national policy documents. Detailed information on the extent to which each nationalized SDG goal and indicator is reflected in national policy documents is given in the Microsoft Excel document (See Annex 1 – Linkages (in Georgian)).

Methodology

In the process of identifying linkages, IDFI used the version of the SDGs nationalization document – the ‘Matrix’ from May this year. Exceptions were goals 5 and 16, in the case of which IDFI took into consideration changes made to the goals (its targets and indicators) up until June and August respectively.

IDFI studied over 70 strategic documents in all (See Table 1) and ascertained to what extent they included goals and indicators of nationalized SDGs. IDFI had access to the strategic documents either through the websites of relevant public institutions (proactively published information) or by sending freedom of information (FOI) requests.

In order to evaluate the level of SDGs integration in the national public policy system of Georgia IDFI referred to the guiding principles elaborated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)¹, based on which three possible options of linkages were identified:

Full linkage: at least one national policy document includes a commitment, that fully corresponds to an SDG target indicator or two or more national policy documents include commitments that taken together fully comply with an SDG target indicator.

¹ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) To facilitate mainstreaming of SDGs into national and local plans, 2017, pp. 13-14



Partial linkage: national policy document/documents include a commitment/commitments which either separately or together fail to completely reflect the scope and ambition of an SDG target indicator.

No linkage: None of the national policy documents include a commitment that relates to an SDG target indicator.

As compared to the evaluation conducted within the auspices of MAPS (Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support) mission the main advantage of the analysis conducted by IDFI is that instead of evaluating linkages at the level of the SDG targets, it goes into more detail and evaluates linkages at the level of the SDG target indicators. During the research process IDFI analyzed dozens of policy documents, which were not used by the MAPS mission (see Table 1).

Limitations

In the research process, one of the main challenges was access to relevant public policy documents. Multiple documents were not published proactively on the websites of relevant public institutions. This constitutes violation of existing legislating. According to the Government Decree #219 of August 26, 2013, strategies, concept papers and action plans elaborated by public institutions are included in the list of documents which should mandatorily be published proactively and updated upon any amendments made to them.

Furthermore, IDFI could not receive complete information on existing public policy documents by sending FOI requests either. A number of public institutions failed to reply to our requests or did not disclose complete information.

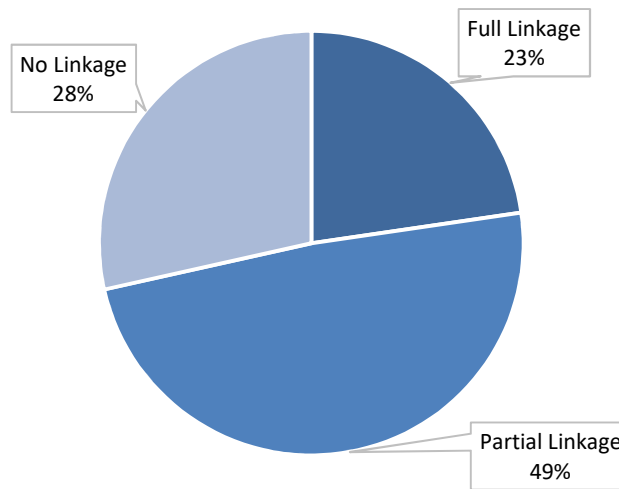
Thus, the analysis does not cover those public policy documents, which were not disclosed by public institutions, and were not accessible for IDFI.



Summary of Linkages

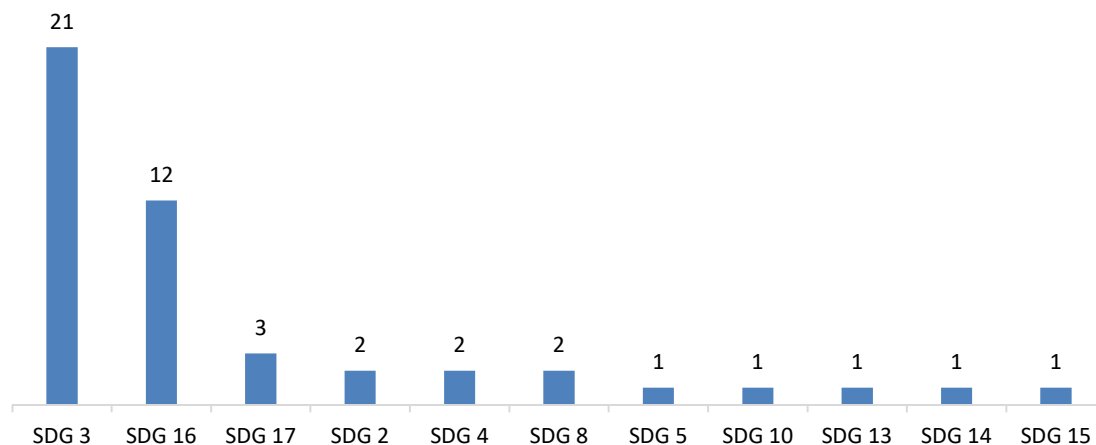
Almost half of SDGs indicators are only partially reflected in national policy documents, 28% of the indicators are not reflected in any strategies or action plans and 23% of them are fully covered by national policy documents (See Graph 1). For the successful implementation of the Agenda 2030 it is crucial that all nationalized target indicators are fully reflected in relevant state strategies and action plans.

Graph 1. Summary of Linkages



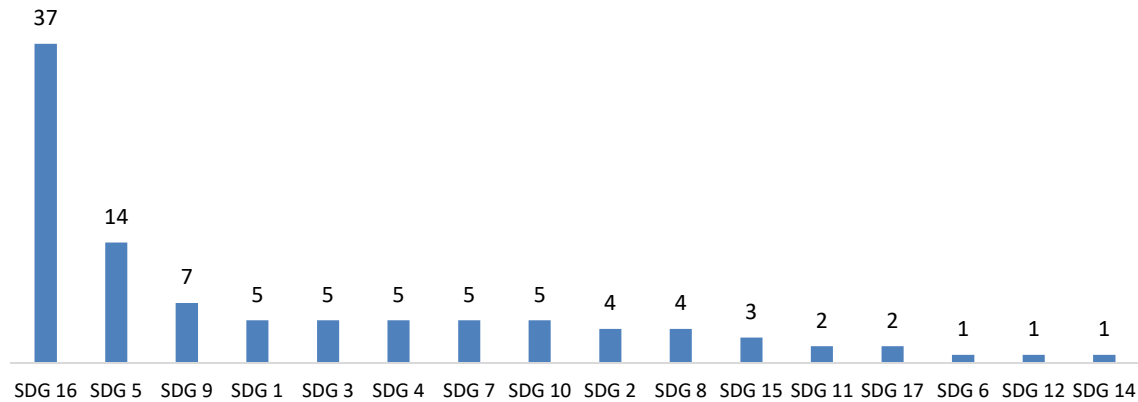
The highest number of indicators are fully linked with national policy documents in the cases of SDG 3 and SDG 16, with 21 and 12 linkages accordingly. No full linkage was found in the cases of SDG 1, SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 9, SDG 11 and SDG 12 indicators (See Graph 2).

Graph 2. Number of Full Linkages by SDGs



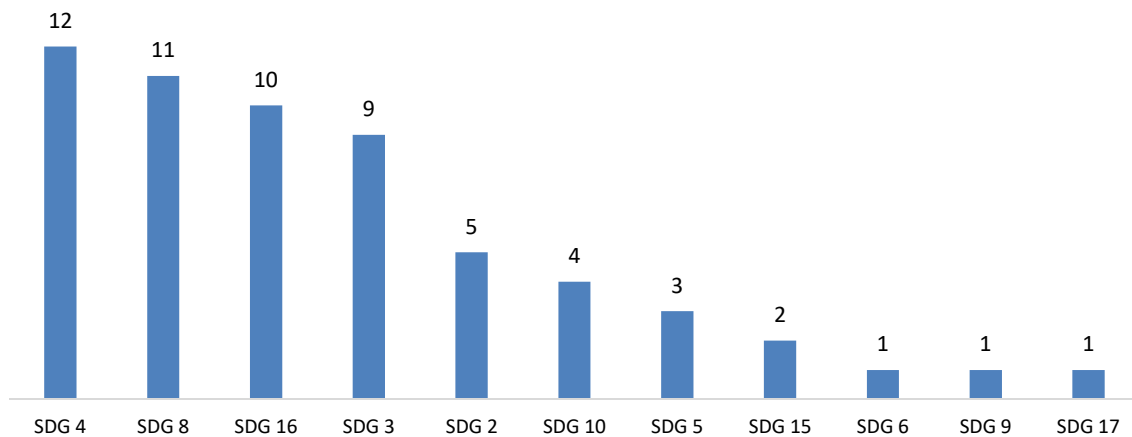
As for the number of partial linkages, the highest number of indicators are linked with national policy documents in the case of SDG 16 – 37 indicators and SDG 5 – 14 indicators. There is no partial linkage between any of SDG 13 indicators and national policy documents (See Graph 3).

Graph 3. Number of Partial Linkages by SDGs



The highest number of indicators with no linkages to national policy documents were observed in cases of SDG 4, SDG 8, SDG 16 and SDG 3, accordingly with 12, 11, 10 and 9 indicators. No such indicators were found in cases of SDG 1, SDG 7, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13 and SDG 14 (See Graph 4).

Graph 4. Number of No Linkages by SDGs



Full quantitative analysis of the extent to which SDGs indicators are reflected in national policy documents is given in Graph 5.

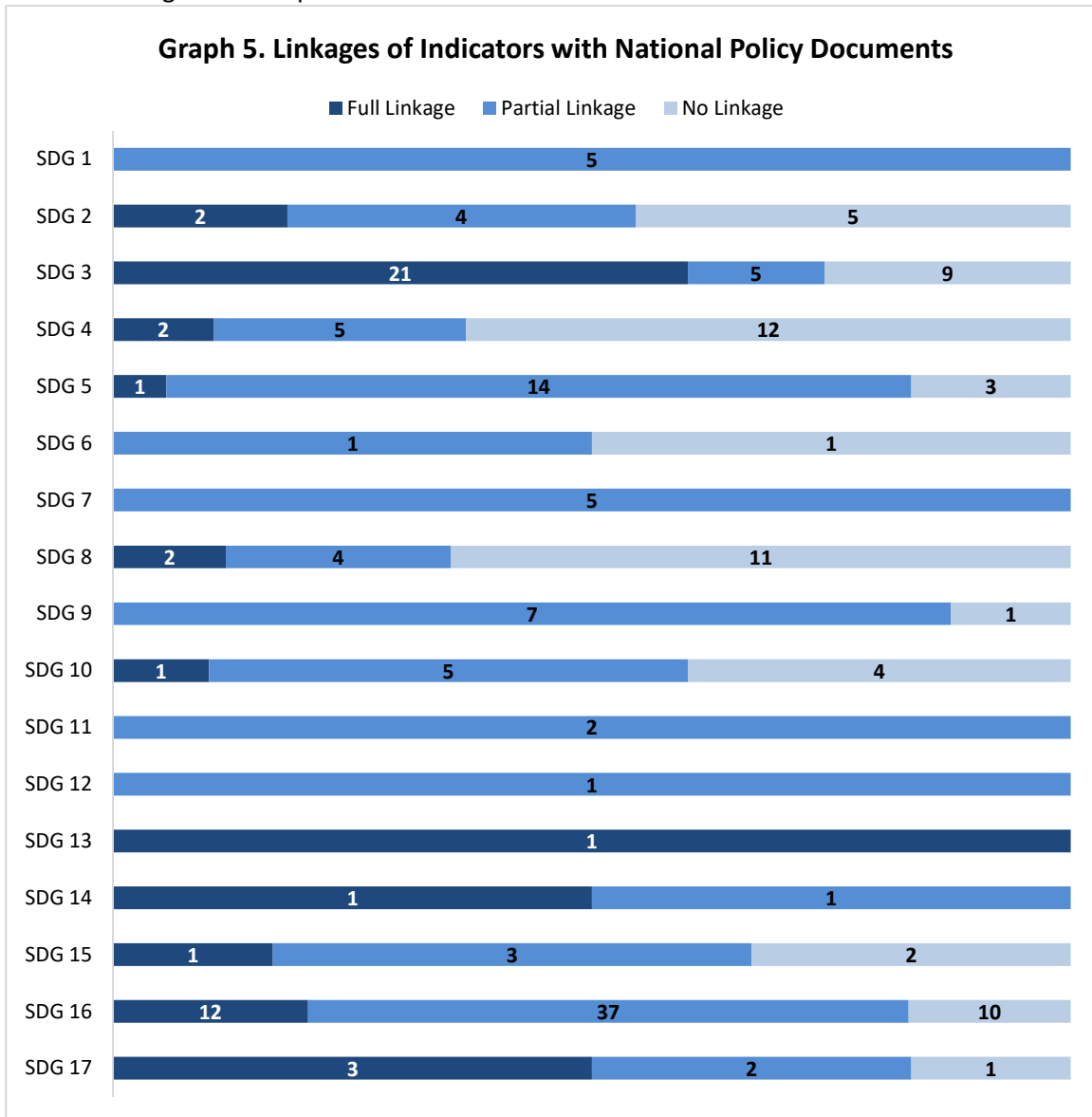


Table 1 – List of the Policy Documents Analyzed

1.	MAPS IDFI	Social-economic Development Strategy - Georgia 2020
2.	MAPS IDFI	2018-2021 Regional Development Programme of Georgia 2018-2021
3.	MAPS IDFI	Vocational Education System Reform Strategy (2013-2020)
4.	MAPS IDFI	Third National Environmental Action Program 2017-2021
5.	MAPS IDFI	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Development Strategy 2016-2020
6.	MAPS IDFI	2014-2020 State Concept of Healthcare System of Georgia for "Universal Health Care and Quality Control for the Protection of Patients' Rights"
7.	MAPS IDFI	National Maternal and Newborn Health Strategy for 2017-2030 and 2017-2019 Action Plan
8.	MAPS IDFI	Migration Strategy 2016-2020
9.	MAPS IDFI	Public Administration Reform Roadmap 2020
10.	MAPS IDFI	Judicial Strategy for 2017-2021, its Action Plan for 2017-2018 and Action Plan for 2019-2020 (draft)
11.	MAPS IDFI	Vision for Developing the Healthcare System by 2030 (2017)
12.	MAPS IDFI	Second National Action Programme to Combat Desertification 2014-2022
13.	MAPS IDFI	Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2020
14.	MAPS IDFI	National Waste Management Strategy for 2016-2030 and a National Action Plan for 2016-2020
15.	MAPS IDFI	National Action Plan on Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (2018-2020)
16.	MAPS IDFI	The 2018-2020 National Action Plan of Georgia for Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security
17.	MAPS IDFI	Freedom, Rapid Development, and Prosperity Government Program (2018-2020)



18.	MAPS IDFI	Law of Georgia on Official Statistics
19.	MAPS IDFI	National Road Safety Strategy
20.	MAPS	National Action Plan on Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and Measures to be Implemented for the Protection of Victims (Survivors) for 2018-2020
21.	IDFI	Country Basic Data and Directions for 2019-2022 (BDD)
22.	IDFI	Medium-term Action Plan of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia 2019-2022
23.	IDFI	Expected outcome and indicators of the State Budget Program 2019
24.	IDFI	Human Rights Action Plan for 2018-2020
25.	IDFI	Medium-term Action Plan 2019-2022 of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia
26.	IDFI	Rural Development Strategy 2017-2020 and its Action Plan for 2018-2020
27.	IDFI	2019-2020 Strategy and Action Plan on the Development of the Penitentiary and Crime Prevention Systems
28.	IDFI	2019 Action Plan of the National Road Safety Strategy
29.	IDFI	Medium-term Action Plan 2019-2022 of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia
30.	IDFI	Vocational Education Development Strategy Action Plan 2013-2015
31.	IDFI	Energy Development Strategy of Georgia 2016-2025, part of Electricity (not approved).
32.	IDFI	Energy Development Strategy of Georgia 2017-2026, part of Natural Gas (not approved).
33.	IDFI	2019 National Action Plan for the Implementation of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area Agreement
34.	IDFI	Strategy of Land Registration and Improvement of Cadastral Data in Pilot Areas



35.	IDFI	2016-2019 Strategy and Action Plan of the Human Rights Secretariat of the Administration of the Government of Georgia
36.	IDFI	National Sport Policy Document 2014-2020
37.	IDFI	National Action Plan to Fight Human Trafficking 2017-2020
38.	IDFI	The Criminal Justice Reform Action Plan 2018-2022
39.	IDFI	Action Plan 2016-2017 of the Migration Strategy of Georgia 2016-2020
40.	IDFI	On Approval of Technical Regulations for Ambient Air Quality Standards
41.	IDFI	State Program to Reduce Air Pollution
42.	IDFI	Roadmap for EU approximation in the environmental and climate action fields (elaborated in 2016)
43.	IDFI	Georgia's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution
44.	IDFI	Resolution of the Parliament of Georgia on the Approval of "The National Forest Concept for Georgia"
45.	IDFI	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics in Georgia 2011-2014
46.	IDFI	Population Census and Demography Statistics
47.	IDFI	Public Service Development Agency Strategy 2017-2019
48.	IDFI	Statistical Work Program for 2019
49.	IDFI	A Digital Georgia e-Georgia strategy and action plan 2014-2018
50.	IDFI	Action Plan for Combatting Organized Crime 2019-2020
51.	IDFI	Action Plan 2019-2020 to Combat Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
52.	IDFI	Anti-corruption Action Plan 2019-2020
53.	IDFI	2019 Strategy and Action Plan of the Regional Policy and Self - Government Committee of the Parliament of Georgia



54.	IDFI	The 2019-2020 Action Plan for Public Administration
55.	IDFI	The Foreign Policy Strategy 2019-2022
56.	IDFI	Georgia-EU Association Agenda 2019 National Action Plan
57.	IDFI	Obesity Prevention Strategy in Georgia
58.	IDFI	2013-2018 Action Plan on Tobacco Control
59.	IDFI	National Strategy 2015 to Reduce Harmful Use of Alcohol
60.	IDFI	National Strategy to Prevent Diabetes
61.	IDFI	National Cancer Control Strategy 2017-2020
62.	IDFI	State's Youth Policy Document 2014
63.	IDFI	Strategic Plan for the Elimination of Hepatitis C Virus in Georgia, 2016-2020
64.	IDFI	National Strategy for Non-Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control 2017-2020
65.	IDFI	National Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis 2016-2020
66.	IDFI	2018-2020 Action Plan of Gender Equality Council of the Parliament of Georgia
67.	IDFI	National Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Injuries and Violence (2013-2018)
68.	IDFI	Action Plan of the Civil Service Bureau in 2018
69.	IDFI	Public Financial Management Strategy Directions for 2018-2021
70.	IDFI	2018-2022 Action Plan of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia Strategy
71.	IDFI	Action Plan for Combatting Organized Crime 2017-2018
72.	IDFI	2018-2020 Action Plan for Juvenile Delinquency Prevention
73.	IDFI	Strategic Plan of the Election Administration of Georgia 2015-2019
74.	IDFI	"Open Parliament" Georgia - Action Plan 2018-2019

