



UN Sustainable Development Goals:
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Council of Georgia
Working Group on Social Inclusion
Minutes of Second Integrated Meeting

Date of the meeting: Thursday, 31/05/18, 10:00

Place of the meeting: Biltmore Hotel Tbilisi

Theme of the meeting:

- Improvement of indicators and integration of SDGs into policy documents;
- Progress of SD Goal 2,3,4 implementation;
- Presenting the selected co-chairs

List of Participants: Annex 1

Speakers	Presentations	Positions
Anna Kvernadze	Opening remarks, introduction of the meeting	SDGs National Coordinator; AOG
Nino Janashia	Integration of SDGs into policy documents	UNDP-IDFI Project Policy Expert
Nino Partskhaladze	Assessment of SDG nationalization document	UNDP-IDFI Project M&E Expert
Kakha Khandolishvili	Implementation of SDGs – implemented and planned activities: Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Ministry of Education and Science
Nino Janelidze	Implementation of SDGs – implemented and planned activities: Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia
Ketevan Goginashvili	Implementation of SDGs – implemented and planned activities:	Ministry Of Labor Health And Social Affairs

Topics Discussed in line with the Agenda:

10:30 – Opening Remarks

Ana Kvernadze, National Coordinator of SDGs, Administration of the Government of Georgia

AoG representative, National Coordinator of SDGs - Ana Kvernadze opened the meeting. Firstly, she informed the stakeholders on the changes implemented in the process of SDGs nationalization, which aims at increasing effectiveness and flexibility of the process. Namely, two types of working groups were developed – technical and integrated. Technical working groups are composed of representatives from public institutions, whereas integrated working groups include all relevant stakeholders – private and public sector, as well as international organizations. Public Policy and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) experts work closely together with technical working groups and present results of their work to integrated working groups. Ana Kvernadze, highlighted that the aim of the given event was to present results of the work on social inclusion that has been under way between the experts and technical working group during the last 1,5 months to the integrated working group.

Before the presentations, Ana Kvernadze informed those present at the event on the results of survey conducted with the aim of appointing working group co-chairmen. According to the results of the survey within the integrated working group of social inclusion co-chairman representing international organizations is UNICEF, co-chairman representing public sector is the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia and co-chairman from civil society is the coalition Education for All – Georgia. Ana Kvernadze emphasized obligations and responsibilities of co-chairmen and reminded that for the next meeting they had to elaborate the concept of the event and goals which would be subject to close review. She also stressed that the progress achieved as the result of nationalizing SDGs No 2, 3 and 4 would be discussed during the given meeting.

10:40 - Integrating SDGs into National Policy System

Nino Janashia, Public Policy Expert

Public Policy Expert presented to the integrated working group on social inclusion results of work that had been conducted within the technical working group in regards with linking existing national policy documents with SDGs. Firstly, she covered the topic of working process and its importance and highlighted that it is crucial to identify horizontal and vertical connections between existing strategies and draw parallels between existing strategies of each indicator. She stressed that recommendations were developed based on the work of the technical working group and emphasized the role of each representative of public institution in the process. According to the expert, the mapping process is not yet concluded. She called on those present

at the meeting to clearly state their ideas and present recommendations after hearing the presentations from the representatives of the ministries.

At this point, Ana Kvernadze noted that those areas in which the government had not adopted any strategy or action plan had been identified as the result of cooperation between experts and working groups, e.g. in the areas of healthcare and social affairs. However she also pointed out that there were number of programs implemented by the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs. The National Coordinator on SDGs stressed, that by the end of the year UN Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) team would visit Georgia to evaluate the process of SDGs implementation in the country. Ana Kvernadze emphasized the need of country's readiness for the arrival of the delegation and once again called on those present at the meeting to active involvement and participation in the process of SDGs nationalization.

10:45 – Evaluation of SDGs Nationalization Document

Nino Partskhaladze, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Expert

Nino Partskhaladze presented to the stakeholders results of work conducted within the technical working group aiming at SDGs nationalization. She noted that more than 100 indicators were reviewed and only small part of them is left to be processed. During the working process, national indicators were harmonized with global indicators, relevant wordings and measurement methods were elaborated. According to the expert 1/3 of the indicators is based on statistical data. She emphasized that number of indicators in the area of agriculture still needs to be elaborated.

10:50 – Goal 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Kakha Khandolishvili, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia

After the presentations of the experts, representative of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia – Kakha Khandolishvili addressed the stakeholders and informed them on the progress achieved during the last years in regards with SDGs implementation in the area of education. He stressed that uniform strategy and action plan was developed by the ministry, which includes issues such as: access to education, infrastructure renovation, trainings for teachers and providing schools with high quality internet access. The presenter highlighted the importance of pre-school education and talked about the role of civil education. According to the representative of the ministry, the subject of civil education would become obligatory. Relevant curriculum had already been developed.

11:05 – Questions and Answers

Representative of the coalition Education for All – Georgia – Revaz Apkhazava commented on the presentation of the Kakha Kandolishvili and noted that existing indicators fails to give full picture of existing problems in the area of education in the country, including the topic of ensuring quality education. He

emphasized the difficulties of receiving information from the ministry and stressed the importance of high-level management involvement in the process. As a response Ana Kvernadze informed the author of the comment that the AoG has received their written comments and part of them had already been taken into consideration, and the remaining comments were sent for review to the ministry.

Chairwomen of IDP Women Association – Consent, Iulia Kharashvili expressed her concern over the state of hygiene at schools in regions and stressed that this has particularly negative effect on girl pupils. The representative of the Ministry of Education and Science agreed with the author of the questions and highlighted that special plans had been developed by the ministry, based on which each school that had not yet gone the process of renovation would be repaired.

USAID representative – Tamar Sirbiladze commented on the topic of sanitation at schools. She noted that USAID funded a project on improving sanitation and hygiene at schools of mountainous Adjara region and called on the ministry to institutionalize the approaches developed during the project. As a response, Kakha Khandolishvili noted that the issue of water supply and sanitation definitely constitutes one of the major problems at schools and that the ministry is actively working towards this direction.

Another question from the representative of the coalition Education for All – Georgia concerned the need of reflecting gender issues in the curriculum of civil education subject. The representative of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia agreed with the comment and noted that the topic of gender equality is already included in the curriculum. The parties agreed to cooperate in the process of reviewing and taking into consideration recommendation prepared by the organization.

11:16 – Goal 2 - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Nino Janelidze, Ministry of Environment and Agriculture of Georgia

Nino Janelidze presented to the participants of the meeting interconnection between relevant nationalized sustainable goals and objectives and existing strategies of the ministry. She noted that four relevant goals are nationalized and reviewed in detail which strategies they are connected with. The ministry representative gave an in depth review of the actions planned to be taken in order to meet the objectives of each goal.

11:26 - Goal 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Ketevan Goginashvili, Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Affairs of Georgia

The representative of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Affairs of Georgia discussed progress achieved since 2015 and the set goals. She covered a number of targets that were taken into consideration within the frames of Millennium Development Goals in details. Ketevan Goginashvili discussed existing situation, progress and next steps around such issues as: health of mothers and children, decreasing AIDS, tuberculosis and other transferrable diseases, Non-Communicable Diseases, access to health services.

11:45 – Q&A/Discussion

After the presentations by the representatives of the Ministries Anna Kvernadze opened floor for discussion. She once more reminded the stakeholders about the importance of their engagement and underlined that implementation of SDGs is not a separate process, and is an integrated part of the policies and reforms of the Government of Georgia. Anna Kvernadze noted that progress report will be presented in October this year.

A representative of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Tamar Sirbiladze noted, that in the past there was discussion about elimination of AIDS and Hepatitis, which was an overly ambitious goal. She stressed that Universal Health Care Program is one of the most successful programs implemented in health sphere, but she also talked about such shortcomings, as access to medicaments. Anna Kvernadze agreed with the author of the comment and noted, that the budget of the program is not sufficient, and after first approach to the program the population has to pay themselves. She noted, that at the moment the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Affairs of Georgia is linking indicators with Basic Data and Directions Document (BDD) and will assess what has been progress of the Ministry in this direction. Anna Kvernadze stressed that it is important to bring the information about existing problems to decision-makers and show progress on next meetings.

The representative of Open Society Georgia Foundation (OSGF) Anano Tsintsabadze talked about importance of connecting SDGs with OGP 2018-2019 Action Plan. She also discussed about the necessity of data on labour inspection and homeless people. The representative of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Affairs of Georgia Paata Zhorzholiani agreed with the author of the comment and confirmed that the topic is complex. He reminded the audience that the Law on Labour Safety will be enacted in the nearest future, and will partially eliminate shortcomings concerning labour inspection and lack of data about it.

Representative of Association “Hera XXI” Nino Tsuliskiri talked about strategy of mothers and children, namely about accessibility of family planning services and not decreasing safe abortion. She stressed the importance of inclusion of the given topic in the program, importance of financial assistance and effective steps into this direction. According to the representative of the Ministry all the named issues are already covered by the strategy. The discussion also covered problem of access to ambulatory care services to pregnant women, importance of the institute of nurses and midwives, and necessity of long-distance and innovative education for doctors.

Head of Internally Displaced People (IDP) Women’s Association “Consent” Iulia Kharashvili underlined necessity of nationalization of IDP-related issues, the problem of access to lands among IDPs and unregistered lands. The representative of the Ministry confirmed existence of this problem and underlined the Ministry is working on it. The representative of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Yoko Akasaka addressed the author of the comment, expressed readiness for cooperation and noted that UNHCR and the Ministry will be happy to receive detailed information about the named problem.

Other topics covered during the discussion included: healthy lifestyle, importance of sport and physical activities in healthcare, role of art and culture in education. The representative of Human Rights and Monitoring Center (EMC) Nutsa Kashakashvili talked about remuneration of maternity leave and


importance of discussing this topic in the framework of SDGs. The representative of Georgian Trade Unions' Confederation Giorgi Tchanturidze stressed the importance of increasing labour productivity in agriculture and importance of increasing quality of education in higher and professional education institutions.

12:30 – Wrap up

The representative of Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI), coordinator of the project “Facilitate the Landing of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the National Level” Tamar Iakobidze stressed the importance of institutional strengthening in the process of implementing SDGs, talked about new format of working groups and noted that it provides for engagement of all stakeholders and covers all sectors. Tamar Iakobidze called on non-state stakeholders towards active engagement in the process and note that engagement of private sector in SDGs will stimulate more inclusive policy-making process in Georgia.

Anna Kvernadze expressed once more readiness of the Administration of the Government to receive feedback and comments and discuss them, and reminded the audience that they will be provided with the schedule of all integrated working group meetings during the following week.

12:35 – Closing of the Meeting

 Annex #1 List of Participants		
Kakha Khandolishvili	Ministry of Education and Science	Strategic Planning Department
Tamaz Bakhtadze	Ministry of Education and Science	Head of Professional Education Department Political Unit
Levan Tserediani	GeoStat	Chief Specialist of Methodology and Quality Control Department
Natia Katsiashvili	BEC	Executive Director
Nutsa Kashakashvili	EMC	Lawyer
Sophia Kamushadze	Embassy of Czech Republic	Coordinator
Iulia Kharashvili	IDP Women’s Association “Consent”	Chair

Davit Advadze	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development	Sustainable Development Division
Megi Gamtkitselashvili	CENN	Project Officer
Tea Gvaramadze	MOH	Head of Division
Paata Zhorzholiani	MOH	Deputy of Head of Employment Policy Department
Aleksandre Arabuli	Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture	Head of Statistics and Analysis Division
Nino Janelidze	Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture	Specialist of Sustainable Development Division
Nino Gokhelashvili	Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture	Head of Sustainable Development Division
Mariam Jajanidze	Human Rights Secretariat	Advisor
Anano Tsintsibadze	OSGF	Project Coordinator
Nino Esakia	EY Georgia	Government and Public Sector Leader
Keti Goginashvili	Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs	Head of health Policy Division
Tamar Sirbiladze	USAID	Social Development Team Leader
Gegi Mataradze	UNFPA	Program Analyst
Nino Partskhaladze	UNDP/IDFI Project	M&E Expert
Nino Janashia	UNDP/IDFI Project	Independent Consultant/Policy
Natia Tsikaradze	AOG	
Giorgi Bobghiashvili	AOG	Advisor
Maia Giorbelidze	UNDP	M&E Specialist
Davit Mushkudiani	UN	UN Coordination Officer

Giorgi Badurashvili	UNHCR	National Programme Officer
Yoko Akasaka	UNHCR	Deputy Regional Representative in the South Caucasus
Besik Andriadze	UNHCR	Senior assistant
Ketevan Tchelidze	Tanadgoma	Project Manager
Marika Jobava	UN WOMEN	GE Commission project Associate
Nino Tsuleiskiri	HERA XII	Director
Elina Gedenidze	Ministry of Culture and Sport of Georgia	Chief Specialist
Tamar Tsulukidze	Ministry of Culture and Sport of Georgia	Head of Strategic Planning and Monitoring Unit
Laila Gad	UNICEF	UNICEF Representative
Gottfried Hanne	UNICEF	Deputy Representative
Giorgi Tchanturidze	Georgian Trade Unions' Confederation	Economic Analyst
Irine Inasaridze	Anika	Director
Giorgi Tchanturia	GCEFA	Project Coordinator
Revaz Apkhazava	GCEFA	Policy Advocacy Coordinator
Lasha Mkurnalidze	GCEFA	
Matsatso Tepnadze	MRDI	Head of Policy Division
Lina Jikia	Amcham	Senior Lawyer