

**Report of the North and Central Asian Forum on Implementation of the
Sustainable Development Goals
3-4 September 2018, Tbilisi, Georgia**

Key messages

- While North and Central Asia made good progress in SDGs related to education and good health, the region is lagging-behind on SDG targets related to decent work, inequalities, Goal 14, Goal 15 and Goal 16. Changing economic and social structures are widening inequality and creating a polarized society. Further, challenges confronted by the region include the absence of a systematic policy framework to tackle inequality; youth unemployment, not clearly reflected in official statistics; an increased occurrence of natural hazards associated with a changing climate; and food insecurity and lack of nutritional access in mountainous regions.
- As a way forward in addressing insufficient progress on SDGs the forum highlighted the need for increased accountability and transparency; enhanced policy actions and regional cooperation including on climate change; and improved stakeholder engagement in regards to economic integration initiatives. To tackle youth unemployment, strengthening the link between SDG 4 on education and SDG 8 on decent jobs was seen as crucial. Volunteerism was also raised as a means to accelerate progress on the SDGs.
- Potential policies to promote empowerment and inclusion of vulnerable groups included enhanced participation in decision making, increased access to government information and programs, establishing an ombudsman system on rights of vulnerable groups, promoting decentralized governance, and affirmative actions for vulnerable groups.
- As part of preparing VNRs, countries emphasized the need to align and integrate national plans and policies with SDGs; promote awareness raising efforts and a ‘whole of society approach’; and coordinate national statistics. Some of the key practical challenges in preparing VNRs are limited time frames; lack of data availability, inter-agency coordination; and engagement of diverse stakeholders.

Background and objectives

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will require comprehensive actions at the global, regional and subregional levels.

The “**North and Central Asian Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**” provided a unique opportunity to share perspectives on “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality,” the theme of the next session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2019 and the Sixth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD).¹

The forum also provided an opportunity to discuss how the North and Central Asia subregion can cooperate to assess progress on the cluster of goals that will be reviewed by the HLPF in 2019, i.e. SDG 4 on Quality Education, SDG 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 10 on Reduced

¹ The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development is an inclusive regional intergovernmental forum which supports the preparations for the HLPF, discussing national and subregional perspectives and sharing good practices; providing perspectives for implementing the 2030 Agenda; and assessing progress and providing opportunities for peer learning related to the thematic goals of the HLPF. The ESCAP-ADB-UNDP has established a partnership to support the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Asia and the Pacific through knowledge products to strengthen regional follow-up and review and national implementation efforts. Under this partnership, an annual thematic report will support discussions at the APFSD and the HLPF, presenting regional perspectives.

Inequality, SDG 13 on Climate Action, SDG 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions and SDG 17 on Partnerships for the Goals.

The meeting:

- 1) Took stock of subregional progress of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- 2) Presented national experiences in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and supported capacity building for countries in the subregion ahead of their Voluntary National Review (VNR) presentations in 2019
- 3) Provided reflections on theme of the HLPF and the APFSD for 2019 ²
- 4) Provided subregional perspectives and good practices on the cluster of goals under review at the HLPF in 2019

The subregional meeting also provided an opportunity for identifying additional training and capacity building needs.

Participants

The meeting was attended by experts from:

1. Government institutions of ESCAP Member States responsible for various aspects of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including focal points for Voluntary National Review reporting and for ESCAP focal points
2. Regional, subregional and UN-system organizations that support SDG implementation
3. Civil society, think tanks and academia; and other
4. Stakeholders involved in SDG implementation at national, regional and global levels

Summary of proceedings

Opening session

The following panellists made remarks during this session, H.E.Mr. Levan Davitashvili, Minister of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Representative from the Ministry of Foreign affairs, Georgia, Mr. Niels Scott, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Georgia, Mr. Stefanos Fotiou, Director of Environment and Development Division of ESCAP.

H.E. Mr. Levan Davitashvili, Minister of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, opened the session and shared the efforts of Georgia to accelerate progress towards SDGs. The new electronic system to monitor SDGs, the work towards nationalization of SDG and targets, green public transport system and new forest codes to promote sustainable forestry of Georgia were highlighted. The minister also underscored that education is a basis and prerequisite for sustainable development and the imperative to focus on skill development in this regard.

Mr. Niels Scott, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Georgia, highlighted the need for subregional and regional cooperation to realize SDGs, and called for extensive and in-depth partnerships. In this context, the SDG partnership between ADB, ESCAP and UNDP was highlighted. While the subregion of North and Central Asia made good progress in SDGs related to education and good health, the

² ESCAP will work with ADB and with UNDP to prepare a regional report to support regional and global dialogue on the theme.

region is lagging-behind on SDG targets related to decent work, inequalities, Goal 14, Goal 15 and Goal 16.

Representative from the Ministry of Foreign affairs welcomed the participants and conveyed the aspiration of Georgia for greater subregional and regional collaboration to further SDGs.

Session 1: *Where do we currently stand with the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*

The following panellists made remarks during this session, Mr. Stefanos Fotiou, Director of Environment and Development Division of ESCAP; Mr. Andrey Panteev and Mr. Nikita Pochtarev (Eurasian Economic Union) and Ms. Nino Zambakhidze (Georgian Farmers Association). The session was moderated by Mr. Nikolay Pomoshchnikov, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP.

The session noted that the subregion is making good progress in terms of access to resources such as water and energy (SDG 6, 7), quality education (SDG 4), sustainable urbanisation (SDG 11) and gender equality (SDG 5). Insufficient progress is made with respect to SDGs 10, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16. The participants called for enhanced policy actions and regional cooperation to bring the subregion on track with progress in these SDGs. The discussions underscored that though the unemployment rate among youth is high and is a big challenge for the region, the official statistics often do not reveal the same. Therefore, participants called for efforts to correct the data accuracy of some indicators such as unemployment. The discussions also underscored that food security and lack of nutritional access are big challenges especially in mountainous regions. Some of the reasons that attribute to this are political instability, lack of land and farmers registry, lack of food waste statistics and insufficient cold storage and warehouse facilities. In parts of region, especially in remote mountainous terrain, access to education is also a challenge, in such contexts, technology solutions such as mobile application can be helpful.

Discussing some of the cross-cutting challenges, the forum highlighted that lack of accountability and transparency is a problem in the region, especially in the progress of SDGs. Participants voiced the need for more substantive, systematic and in-depth analysis within Voluntary National Reviews. The session also discussed the subregional level initiatives, such as the Eurasian Economic union, that promotes greater economic integration within the subregion, and how the main objectives of such efforts are in line of the SDGs. The participants from CSOs emphasized that the space for engagement with multiple stakeholders needs to be enhanced within the subregional economic integration initiatives.

Session 2: *National progress, achievements and challenges with respect to the 2030 Agenda*

Representatives from the following Member States acted as panellists, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Georgia. This session was moderated by Ms. Munkhtuya Altangerel, Deputy Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme and Mr. Hovhannes Ghazaryan, Head of Resident Coordinator's Office, Office of the UN Resident Coordinator

Countries from the region, who presented their VNRs in the past, shared their experiences and learnings. Countries underscored strong national level coordination in preparation of VNRs. As part of preparing VNRs, countries emphasized the need to align and integrate national plans and policies with SDGs, promote awareness raising efforts, coordination of national statistics and promoting a 'whole of society' approach. Governments underscored the usefulness of the UN SG's guidelines on VNR, UNDP MAPS mission reports and rapid integrated assessment tool provided by UNDP in developing

VNRs. Some of the key practical challenges in preparing VNRs are limited time frames, lack of data availability, inter-agency coordination and engagement of diverse stakeholders.

In terms of lessons learned from past experiences, countries emphasized need for multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms for preparing VNRs, picking of national SDG indicators, effective time management and the need to organise a strategic coalition of partners who can help with integrating diverse perspectives. National academies of sciences are a good way to engage with the scientific community during the preparation of VNRs.

Countries also shared diverse way to engage with stakeholders in the VNR process. In most countries, representatives from different stakeholder groups were part of the working groups and councils step up to coordinate VNRs. In one country, secretary of the national SDG council itself is in fact a representative of CSOs. Countries also shared short-comings from past VNR experiences, for instance, governments shared how they were heavily criticized by stakeholders when a first draft of VNR without much consultation was circulated for comments. Learning from this experience, the Government has designed a new stakeholder engagement architecture to effectively engage with stakeholders in the next VNR.

VNRs have led to tangible outcomes in many countries. One of the cited achievement of VNR is that it helped to set a base-line for SDGs indicators in many countries, while one country reported that the VNR process led to the creation of an SDG innovation lab. Countries also reported that the VNR preparation process itself is a productive and learning exercise and has its own intrinsic value.

Session 3: Review of Goals for the HLPF 2019

The following panellists made remarks during the session, Mr. Batyr Mamedov (ICSD), Mr. Rafis Abazov, Ban Ki Moon Institute for Sustainable Development, Mr. Khojamakhmad Umarov (Center of Economic Studies). The session was moderated by Mr. Stefanos Fotiou, Director of Environment and Development Division, ESCAP.

The changing economic and social structures are widening inequality and creating a polarised society in the subregion. At the moment, there is no example of systematic policy framework to tackle inequality within the subregion. Changes in labour market, with disappearance of permanent jobs, is undermining progress made under SDG 8. Though there has been progress made in terms of primary education SDG4, there is limited progress made in terms of providing quality education and promoting lifelong learning or meeting the demand of skills of the market. Hence, strengthening the link between SDG 4 on education and SDG 8 on decent jobs is crucial to tackle the youth unemployment in the region.

The region is witnessing accelerated population growth and urbanization. The region has made some progress in SDG 16, especially through promoting transparency via e-governance measures. In terms of SDG 13, the subregion is already experiencing increased occurrence of natural hazards and other negative impacts of climate change. Participants called for accelerated climate action at the regional, national and local levels. Experts shared their views on subregional cooperation efforts related to goals under in-depth review at HLPF 2018. The participants emphasized the integrated approach to tackle SDGs is the more efficient strategy. Participants also identified cross-cutting challenges for the implementation of SDGs such as lack of long-term planning and limited coordination among government agencies. One discussant highlighted the role of volunteerism as a cross-cutting means of implementation to accelerate progress towards SDGs.

Session 4: Perspectives on the APFSD and HLPF theme “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality” (2019)

Case study presentations were made by Ms. Nurgul Dzhanaeva (Forum of women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan), Ms. Jamila Asanova (ARGO - Civil Society Development Association, Kazakhstan), Mr. Vugar Bayramov (Center for Economic and Social Development (CESD), Azerbaijan), Ms. Karine Danielyan (Association and ASPU Department, Armenia). The session was moderated by Mr. Arun Jacob, Environmental Affairs Officer (ESCAP).

The session discussed four case studies from within the region that dealt with the HLPF 2018 theme. Selected CSOs presented their work emphasizing the role of multi-stakeholder partnership building, awareness raising on rights among vulnerable groups, helping vulnerable groups access their entitlements, and promoting social enterprise as ways to empower specific vulnerable groups and promote their inclusion.

In the group discussion that discussed the HLPF 2019 theme in-depth, participants conveyed their perceptions on empowerment, which revolved around - reducing vulnerability, promoting dialogue, guaranteeing good quality life, realizing life objectives, participation of vulnerable people in the whole cycle of implementation and planning of policies, ensuring major rights and freedoms, improving social institutions, guaranteeing equal opportunity, increasing of civil consciousness, self-expression and participation in decision making. The forum discussed the main barriers to empowerment. Some of the cited barriers include lack of infrastructure, accountability, social protection, access to labour market, access to special school and resources for vulnerable groups, financial resources, rapid access to governments, stability in political systems, proper definition of social status, and decentralisation; corruption; conflicts; social and cultural factors such as patriarchy; problem in implementing rule of law; weak judicial institutions; inefficient policies and laws for social development.

The participants shared several policies to promote empowerment and inclusion of vulnerable groups. Examples include laws on public organization, proper electoral codes, quota systems, electronic access to government information and programs, gender sensitive policies, affirmative actions for vulnerable groups, green economy policies supporting the most vulnerable, amendments to law dealing with stateless persons, joining convention of rights for persons with disabilities, establishing an ombudsman on rights of vulnerable groups, establishing laws on violence against vulnerable groups, setting up crisis centres and helplines; establishing minimum standards in education, wages, health, insurance, and pensions; inclusive education policies and promoting decentralisation within governments.

Session 5: The way forward and closing

The session discussed the way forward, including the process leading to the APFSD and HLPF. The representative from Governments appreciated ESCAP for organizing the forum and said it helped Member States to exchange experiences and lessons learned on promoting SDGs and also preparation of VNRs. The CSOs who attended the forum, also welcomed the forum and presented a joint statement as attached in Annex 1.

Annex 1. Statement of CSOs

Statement of CSOs who participated at the North and Central Asian Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals 3-4 September 2018, Tbilisi, Georgia

CSO in the subregion welcomed organization of such important thematic meeting for Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality.

During preparation of the outcome document or follow up to stress opportunities on positive transformation in regard to the impact on ecosystems, conservation of the biodiversity.

We were convinced of the interest and weight of contributions to the achievement of the SDG by different sectors and actors, as well as the opportunities (including lost ones) of each partner at the national, subregional, global levels.

The voiced national practices of the organization of the DNO and the achievements of the SDG once again demonstrated the opportunities for mobilization and the potential of CSOs, as well as the importance of innovative approaches to both partner at the national, subregional, global levels.

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Recommendations

Part I

1. Integrate human rights, women's rights and gender equality perspectives into all goals implementation and review
2. Strengthen accountability of all stakeholders with a clear and short- and long-term mechanism
3. Support multi-stakeholders partnership with institutionalized space and roles of CSOs
4. South –South cooperation to be under human rights and women's rights control
5. Engage at early stage all stakeholders including local authorities and CSOs
6. Governments to learn, discuss best practices and replicate positive experience
7. Review national planning of MOIs
8. Legitimization of nationalized and adapted SDG and indicators (including gender sensitive indicators) by SDG's beneficiaries
9. Institutionalization of the monitoring and evaluation of the CSO process and the results of the SDG
10. To contribute to human capital development: mainstreaming volunteerism as a cross-cutting means of implementation for the Agenda 2030 and Creating volunteering opportunities at national level more focusing on community level in remote areas.
11. To contribute to quantitative and qualitative information within VNR processes: to include volunteers and volunteering agencies to be part of multi-stakeholders approach to support consultations, reporting, evaluation of data within VNR processes.
12. Facilitate work of experts' community on SDG indicators development
13. More actively engage means of mass media to increase awareness of population in the area of implementation of SDGs. Prepare TV and radio programs on this theme.
14. Included SDG themes in a system of education: from school to informal and after tertiary level.
15. Integrate common medical and social standards into all possible indicators.
16. It is important to widely spread information to people about sustainable development,
17. To develop actions for reduction of resource intensive productions and services among administrative workers.
18. To widen authorities of EBPA39C in the area of ecology and use of national resources.

19. Shift to principle of planning and use of environmental resources.
20. Prepare trainers on implementation of road map or step by step action at local level

Part II on enabling environment for CSOs within SDG related processes

1. Institutionalize participation of CSOs in all country level SDG related processes, including ensuring adequate participation in planning and budgeting levels of national programs
2. Increase role of CSO in program and outcome documents design, as well as in the preparatory process
3. Gender assessment of the process and the results of the SDG
- 4.
5. VNR official delegations to include a representative of CSO
6. To include CSOs in follow up actions implementation and review
7. Regulate from human rights approach national and subregional PPP design and imp and review
8. Participation of CSO should be organized by CSOs themselves.
9. Funding for CSOs should be increased
10. Support CSO's partnership (assistance NGO site / network, capacity building, exchange of experience, information)
11. Multilateral platform to achieve SDG (Government, international organizations, academic sector, NGO, business sector)
12. Support CSO Report to HLPF from the subregion

Annex 2. Programme

Timing	Session
Monday, 3 September 2018	
09:00 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 10:00	Opening session Welcome remarks by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stefanos Fotiou - Director, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP Opening Remarks by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Levan Davitashvili - Minister, Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia - Representative from Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia - Mr. Niels Scott, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Georgia
10:00- 10:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group photo - Coffee break
10:45- 12:30	Session 1: Where do we currently stand with the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development <u>Document:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ESCAP's Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2016: SDG Baseline Report; - 2018 High-level Political Forum Ministerial Declaration; - Report of the 2018 High-level Political Forum; - Report of the Fifth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development. <p>The session's aim is to reflect on the current situation of the subregion in terms of progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, presenting data from the ESCAP's Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2016: SDG Baseline Report and other subregional assessments. This will help enhance awareness and understanding of the key challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the subregion. Main messages from the past HLPF will be presented and dissected in connection to the subregional agenda.</p> <p>Moderator: Nikolay Pomoshchnikov - Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP</p> <p>Panelists (15 minutes each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stefanos Fotiou - ESCAP - Mr. Andrey Panteleev – Head, Economic Policy Strategies Section (EEC) <i>"Eurasian Economic Union: sustainable development goals implementation at subregional level"</i> - Mr. Nikita Pochtarev - Advisor, Economic Policy Strategies Section (EEC) <i>"Fostering inclusive growth in the Eurasian Economic Union"</i> - Ms. Nino Zambakhidze - Head, Georgian Farmers Association <i>"SDGs for farmers' sustainable development"</i> <p>Discussions</p>
12:30- 14:00	Lunch break

Timing	Session
14:00-15:30	<p>Session 2: National progress, achievements and challenges with respect to the 2030 Agenda</p> <p><u>Document:</u> Voluntary National Review 2018: National assessment report for Armenia</p> <p>To support capacity building for other countries in the subregion thinking of making presentations in 2019, the session will feature a discussion involving countries who presented their reports in the previous sessions of the HLPF and those planning to report in 2019. As appropriate, the session will also provide inputs to discussions on implementation of the road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.</p> <p>Moderators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Munkhtuya Altangerel - Deputy Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme - Mr. Hovhannes Ghazaryan - Head of Resident Coordinator's Office, Office of the UN Resident Coordinator <p>Panelists (15 minutes each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representative of Armenia - Representative of Tajikistan - Representative of Turkmenistan <p>Q & A (Discussion)</p>
15:30- 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:30	<p>Cont. Session 2: National progress, achievements and challenges with respect to the 2030 Agenda</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Munkhtuya Altangerel - Mr. Hovhannes Ghazaryan <p>Panelists (15 minutes each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representative of Azerbaijan - Representative of Kazakhstan - Representative of Georgia <p>Q & A (Discussion)</p>
Tuesday, 4 September 2018	
09:30-11:00	<p>Session 3: Review of Goals for the HLPF 2019</p> <p><u>Document:</u> "Template for SDGs regional profiles"</p> <p>The session will provide subregional perspectives on the cluster of goals under review in 2019: SDG 4 "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all"; SDG 8 "Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all"; SDG 10 "Reduce inequality within and among countries"; SDG 13 "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts"; SDG 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".</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stefanos Fotiou, Director, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP

Timing	Session
	<p>Panelists (15 minutes each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Batyr Mamedov – Head of ICSD Secretariat <i>“The development of the Regional Environmental Program for sustainable development of Central Asia”</i> - Dr. Rafis Abazov - Senior Managing Director, Ban Ki Moon Institute for Sustainable Development <i>“Education for Sustainable Development and Decent Work: Changes and Challenges for Central Asian Region”</i> - Mr. Khojamakhmad Umarov – Head, Macroeconomic Department, Center of Economic Studies - Ms. Rimma Sabayeva – UNV <i>“Volunteerism and the SDGs”</i> <p>Q & A</p>
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-13:00	<p>Session 4: Perspectives on the APFSD and HLPF theme “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality” (2019) The session’s aim is to gather inputs theme of the 2019 APFSD and HLPF in the form of priorities, good practices and initiatives (subregional thematic profiles)</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arun Jacob - Environmental Affairs Officer, ESCAP <p>Presentation: “Case studies on the HLPF theme 2019”</p> <p><i>Discussions</i></p> <p>Small group work</p>
13:00-14:30	Lunch Break
14:30-15:30	<p>Cont. Session 4: Perspectives on the APFSD and HLPF theme “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality” (2019)</p> <p>Report back to the plenary by group representatives and discussion</p>
15:30-16:00	<p>Session 5: The way forward and closing The panel will discuss the way forward, including the process leading to the APFSD and HLPF.</p> <p>Moderator : Mr. Mikheil Patashuri, Department of International Economic Relations, Georgia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stefanos Fotiou, ESCAP - Nikolay Pomoshchnikov, ESCAP - Ms. Aigul Serikbayeva, Counsellor to the Multilateral Cooperation Department, UN Unit, MFA, Kazakhstan - Ms. Nurgul Dzhanaeva, President, Forum of women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan, representative from CSOs and other stakeholders <p>Wrap up and concluding remarks by the organizers</p>
16:00-16:30	Coffee break

Annex 2. List of Participants

Governments

Armenia

Mr. Arman Hovhannisyan, Head of UN division, International Organizations Department, MFA

Ms. Astghik Miansyan, Head of Social Assistance Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia

Georgia

Mr. Levan Davitashvili, Minister of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia

Mr. George Sharvashidze, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

Mr. Mikheil Patashuri, Department of International Economic Relations

Mr. Alexander Khvtisiashvili, Director of Department of International Economic Relations

Mr. Noshrevan Lomtadze, Deputy Director of Department of International Economic Relation

Ms. Anna Kvernadze, Head of Government Planning Unit/National Coordinator of SDGs, Administration of the Government of Georgia

Mr. Huseyn Huseynov, Head of the department of the Sustainable development of the Ministry of economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Mr. Zhaslan Gabdullin, Deputy director of the Department of Social policy and the development of state bodies. Ministry of National Economy

Ms. Aigul Serikbayeva, Counsellor to the Multilateral Cooperation Department, UN Unit, MFA

Mr. Arsen Bogatyrev, Second Secretary, Department of International Organizations, MFA

Mr. Faridun Roziqov, Deputy head of Main Department of investment policy and development of regions, Ministry of Economic Development

Experts

Dr. Rafis Abazov (Kazakhstan), Senior Managing Director, Ban Ki Moon Institute for Sustainable Development

Mr. Khojamakhmad Umarov (Tajikistan), Head of Macroeconomic Department, Center of Economic Studies

Mr. Batyr Mamedov (Turkmenistan), Head of ICSD Secretariat

Dr. Sergey PUZIN (Russia), Academician of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences

Ms. Nino Zambakhidze (Georgia), Head, Georgian Farmers Association

Mr. Andrey Panteleev (Russia), Head, Economic Policy Strategies Section, Macroeconomic Policy Department, Eurasian Economic Commission

Mr. Nikita Pochtarev (Russia), Advisor, Economic Policy Strategies Section, Macroeconomic Policy Department, Eurasian Economic Commission

UN Agencies

Ms. Munkhtuya Altangerel, Deputy Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme

Mr. Niels Scott, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Georgia

Mr. Hovhannes Ghazaryan, Head of Resident Coordinator's Office, Office of the UN Resident Coordinator

Other Stakeholders

Ms. Olga Djanaeva (Kyrgyzstan) Director, Rural women's association Alga

Mr. Artur Vakhitov (Uzbekistan) Coordinator of the Target Programs, Ecoforum Uzbekistan

Ms. Nurgul Dzhanaeva (Kyrgyzstan) President, Forum of women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan

Ms. Rimma Sabayeva (Kazakhstan) Programme Analyst, UNV

Ms. Kaisha Atakhanova (Kazakhstan) Director of regional program, Civil Society Development Association (ARGO)

Khatuna Gogaladze (Georgia) Georgia's Environmental Outlook

Nana Janashia (Georgia) Caucasus Environmental NGO Network -CENN

Nino Chkhobadze (Georgia) Greens Movement – Friends of Earth

George Dzamukashvili (Georgia) National Water Partnership of Georgia

Jamila Asanova (Kazakhstan) Chief Executive Officer, ARGO - Civil Society Development Association

Ms. Karine Danielyan (Armenia) Chair person of Association and ASPU Department

Mr. Vugar Bayramov (Azerbaijan) Chairman of the Board, Center for Economic and Social Development (CESD)

Ms. Shahlo Abdunabizoda (Tajikistan) Executive director, NGO "Jahon"

Ms. Anara Niyazova (Kyrgyzstan) Chairperson of the Directorate, PA Innovative Solution

Mr. Sabir Agabalayev (Turkmenistan) Vice-Chairman, NGO "Keik-Okara"

Nutsi Odisharia (Georgia) Head of Social Protection Department, Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs

Ketevan Goginashvili (Georgia) Head of health Policy Division, Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs

George Chanturia (Georgia) Director, Georgian Coalition for Education

Tea Levidze (Georgia) Head of Sustainable Development Division, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia

Akaki Zoidze (Georgia) Chairman of the Healthcare and Social Issues Committee, Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs

Tsakadze Vasil (Georgia) Head of Agricultural and Environmental Statistics Division, Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs

Nino Gokhelasvili (Georgia) Head of Sustainable Development Division, Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs

Giorgi Mukhigulishvili (Georgia) Lead Researcher, Think Tank World Experience for Georgia

Revaz Apkhazava (Georgia) Policy Advocacy Officer, Georgian Coalition for Education

UN ESCAP

Stefanos Fotiou Director, Environment and Development Division

Arun Jacob, Environmental Affairs Officer

Nikolay Pomoshchnikov, Senior Economic Affairs Officer

Rustam Issakhoyev, Programme Management Officer