Addressing the Transboundary Dimensions of the 2030 Agenda through Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific: Kyrgyzstan Expert Consultation, 22-23 October 2019, Almaty

Summary of Policy Recommendations

The ESCAP secretariat organized a national workshop on 22-23 October\(^1\) with the objective of building capacity on infrastructure development and sharing among different sectors (i.e. ICT, transport and energy). International experts equipped the policymakers of Kyrgyzstan with tools and knowledge products tailored to the national context, based on subregional assessment. The participants identified opportunities and challenges of infrastructure sharing and co-deployment and proposed measures and mechanisms to address connectivity deficits in a sustainable manner. Holistic approaches were proposed with methodological, policymaking and planning tools to build climate and disaster resilient infrastructure.

As a result of facilitated interactive consultations in three cross-sectoral groups, the participants recommended the government through the national focal point of RECI (Ministry of Economy in cooperation with Ministry of Emergency Situations and engaging UNDP CO, tbd) the following:

1. **To establish agreements and mechanisms to share data across country borders in the region to enhance infrastructure planning and support international collaboration, inclusive to:**
   - infrastructure planning, defining initial investment and application of assessment tools
   - a clear legal framework that better addresses cross-sectoral challenges and align policy to enable co-deployment projects
   - international mechanisms or agreements to enable cross-border initiatives
   - initiatives to harmonize regulations would better enable cooperation between the public and private sectors. In this regard, the accelerate the work of development of these partnerships through economic models of PPP and the monitoring system

2. **To assemble inter-agency cooperation and ministerial coordination working group (WG) at a senior expert level that would meet every quarter. The WG would need to agree on the Terms of Reference, develop and operationalize plans to better collaborate across sectors and to coordinate the identified initiatives, share knowledge and support international collaboration.**

3. **To establish training centres for building capacities on co-deployment and financing comprehensive and inclusive infrastructure solutions, that should:**
   - include sessions on strategic thinking skills, long-term planning of infrastructure development with scenario development skills, inclusive to cross-sectoral guidance from different industries, leverage synergies from initial planning to final implementation and integrated financing frameworks.
   - engage international experts that are able to provide locally tailored training on international standards and global best practices, including social inclusion and access to infrastructure by people with disabilities.

4. **To launch an internet portal, that will operationalize the methodology and tools proposed by ESCAP in order to facilitate partnership with different stakeholders.**

Action Points for the ESCAP secretariat

5. **To develop a study on social inclusion in infrastructure development in Central Asia and the respective training package to be delivered at the second national consultations, scheduled in 2020.**

\(^1\) Materials of the workshop could be reviewed from the following link: https://www.unescap.org/events/addressing-2030-agenda-through-regional-economic-cooperation-and-integration-asia-and