



EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND DECENT WORK: CHANGES AND CHALLENGES FOR CENTRAL ASIAN REGION

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Almaty, September 04, 2018

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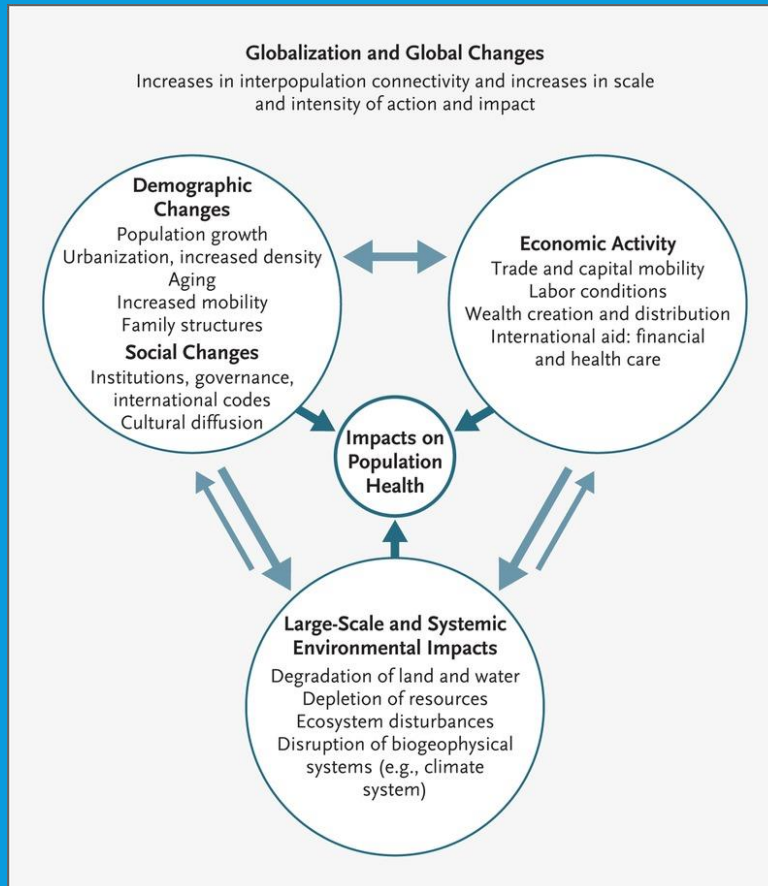
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SDGS IN CENTRAL ASIA REGION



The SDG have had an important impact on the policy paradigm in Central Asia as they began shaping the policy discourse, policy planning and policy actions of the governments of the countries in the region.

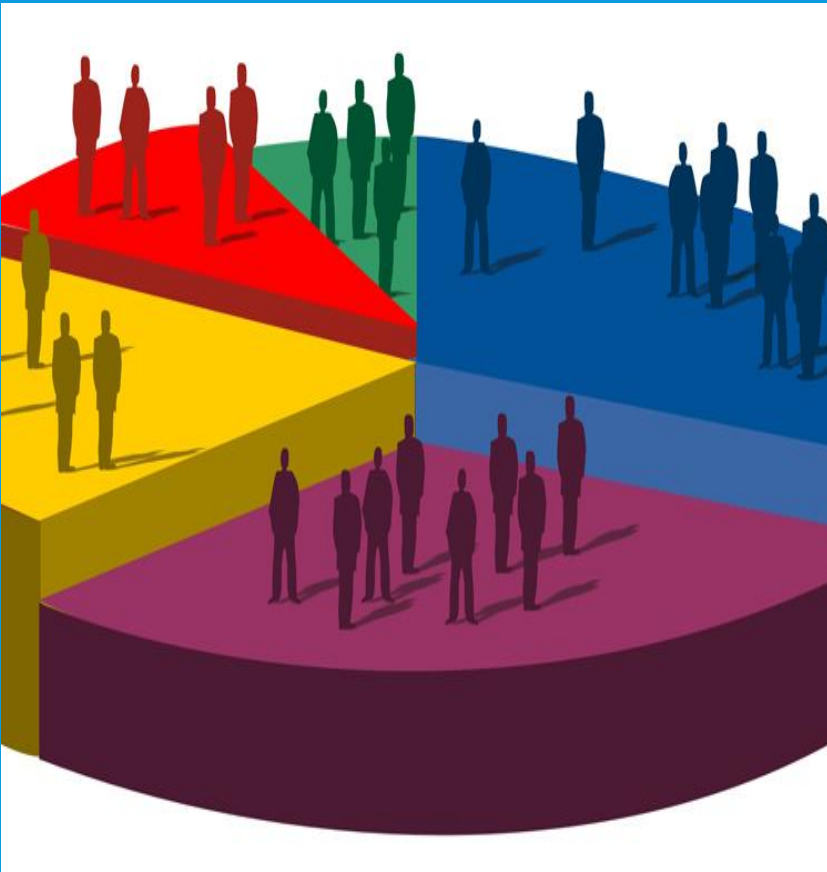
1. BACKGROUND: SHIFTING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE



One of the important features in Central Asia is changes in social and economic landscape of the region, which is still in transition:

- 1) Changing economic structure;
- 2) Changing social structure;
- 3) Changing labor market;
- 4) Changing policy model

2.1. DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES, URBANIZATION,



- The **demographic** balance will continue to change as demographers expect an accelerated growth of the population in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan & Uzbekistan, and moderate growth in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan;
- The **urbanization** will continue to accelerate as large urban centers in every republic will continue to grow and about 10-12 cities in the will pass one million mark;

2.2. LABOR MARKET AND ECONOMIC INEQUALITY



- The labor market will change as fewer new jobs would be created in the agricultural sector and fewer permanent jobs would be created in Industrial sector. The national economies will continue shifting towards services-driven economic development with different scenarios of “soft” and “hard” landing;
- The economic inequality will remain and may be even grow as there is no clear policy strategy and economic plans for the redistribution of wealth;

3. EMERGING NEW “YOUTH PARADIGM”: DIFFERENT EXPECTATIONS AND ATTITUDES



The Emerging new “Youth Paradigm” means that the youth in the region is very different from the previous generation becoming better organized online, sharing less common/joint regional experience and more proactive

4. SDG-4. QUALITY EDUCATION. ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL



The achievements in the field of education include improving the primary and secondary schools' infrastructure and funding and creating flagship HEI.

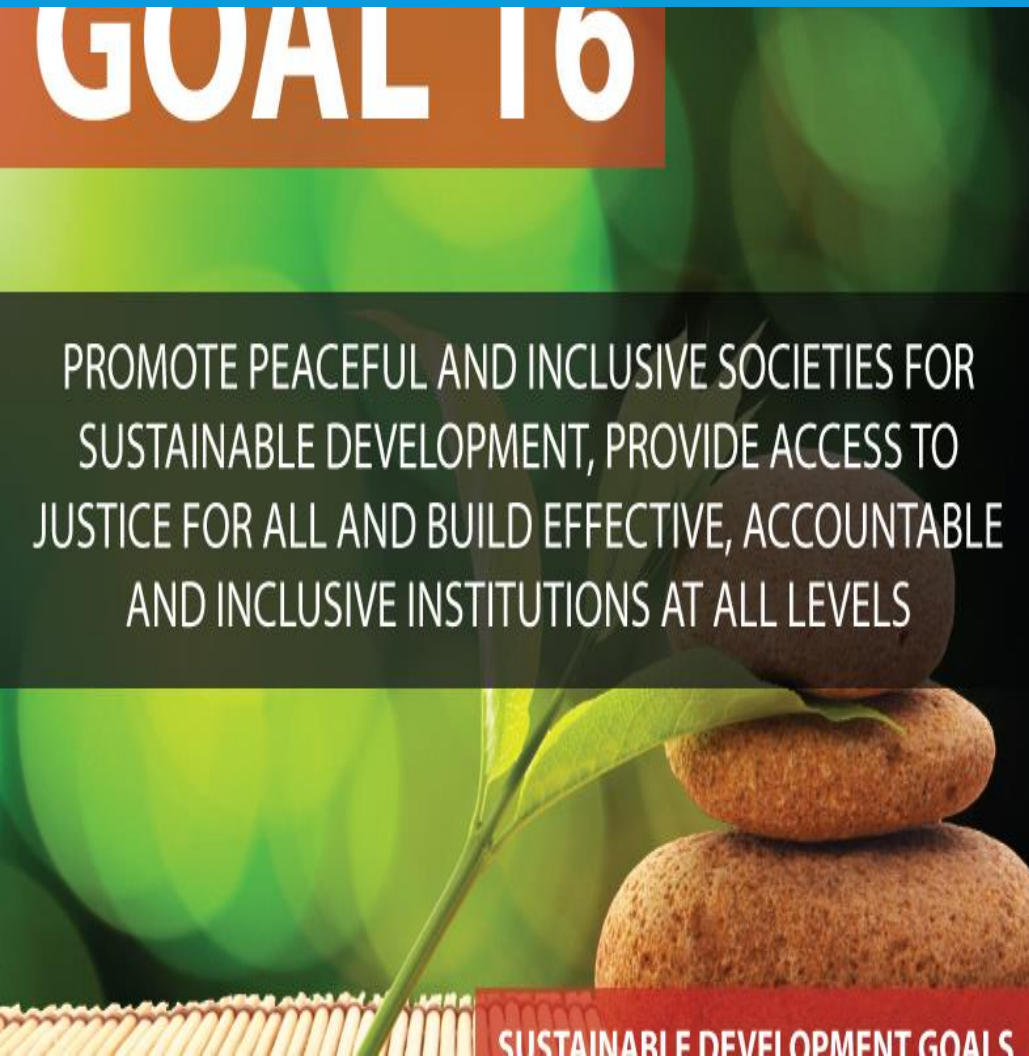
However, many schools and universities lag behind in improving the quality of education and developing lifelong learning opportunities for all.

5. SDG-8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH. PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE & SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL & PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT & DECENT WORK FOR ALL;



The economies of Central Asia experience economic growth but lag behind in decent job creation and productive employment.

6. SDG-16. PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS. PROMOTE PEACEFUL & INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL & BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE & INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS.



The state institutions in the Central Asian republics have become more transparent and better-organized (e.g. corruption ranking improved) as they continue introducing the elements of e-government and collaborating with international organizations in developing professional civil services.

However, the state institutions still lack the clear targets and policies in developing lean, efficient and effective government institutions.

7. CONCLUDING REMARKS: POLICY DEVELOPMENT

It is important that the international organizations should be more proactive in promoting the SDGs and Agenda 2030.





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