Roadmap

Armenia – Nationalizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The roadmap for nationalizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Armenia is a living document that can be adjusted throughout the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. It aims to guide the United Nations Country Team Armenia and the Government of Armenia through the nationalization and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the coming years.

Country Context

Armenia was among the select group of countries to contribute towards the shaping of the global development agenda, which was both a privilege and recognition of the country’s unique perspective on development. In 2012-2014, as part of the “The World We Want” global initiative, national consultations were conducted in Armenia. In excess of 3,000 people participated, and over 2,000 ideas and recommendations on the future development agenda were proposed. These consultations fed into the global perspective on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

In 2016, the Government of Armenia launched Armenia’s final national progress report on the MDGs. The report reviewed the achievements and the gaps in MDG implementation in Armenia and also identified possible linkages between the SDGs and the key objectives described in the Prospective Development Strategy Paper of the Republic of Armenia for 2014-2025. The nationalization of the 2030 Agenda was first presented to the stakeholders at the launch of this report in May 2016.

The nationalized SDGs should be integrated, to the possible extent, into the Prospective Development Strategy Paper of the Republic of Armenia for 2014-2025 and the sectoral strategies, and should be considered as Armenia’s international commitments.

Proposed Approach

The nationalization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be achieved in the following phases:
Phase 1: Prioritization
Phase 2: Integration
Phase 3: Localization
Phase 4: Monitoring
Phase 5: Reporting

Phase 1: Prioritization

The National Council on Sustainable Development (NCSD), chaired by the Prime Minister and represented by key ministers and non-governmental organizations will be the custodian of the 2030 Agenda and the lead entity in the process of nationalizing the SDGs. The Government of Armenia via the NCSD will play a key role in driving the nationalization, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the 2030 Agenda in Armenia.

An Interagency Committee on SDGs has been set up to ensure regular working level interaction on the 2030 Agenda between the Government and the United Nations. Each relevant ministry/agency has designated a head of department or a deputy minister, who will serve as a focal point for SDGs within that ministry/agency. Representatives of the UN, international and non-governmental organizations also participate in the activity of the Interagency Committee. The Interagency Committee is a consultative body to the NCSD, and is co-chaired by the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Government in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Four sub-groups – social, economic, environmental, as well as legal and democratic – have been formed under the Interagency Committee to review the relevant goals. A Terms of Reference has also been prepared for the National Coordination Taskforce.

Rapid Integrated Policy Assessment has already been conducted to determine the relevance of the SDGs to the country context through the review of Armenia’s Prospective Development Programme for 2014-2025 and relevant sectoral strategies. This assessment has provided an indicative overview of the level of alignment with the SDG targets and the existing gaps. It has become the first step in the process of the nationalization of the SDGs.

Since the finalization of the Rapid Integrated Policy Assessment, a series of national consultations is being organized by the National Coordination
Taskforce to work on the prioritization of the SDG targets and indicators. Each consultation will focus on one SDG. The consultations will be conducted with participation of relevant experts from line ministries/agencies, international development organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector.

To spearhead the process further, a National Validation Workshop on SDGs will be organized in Yerevan by the end of the year with an aim to present, discuss and validate the recommendations of the national consultations. The workshop will also aim to steer a discussion about the 2030 Agenda amongst the national, development and civil society partners and obtain ownership from the stakeholders, and form a vision for partnership throughout the nationalization process. The validated nationalized SDG targets and indicators will be endorsed by the NCSD.

During the nationalization process, the NCSD and National Coordination Taskforce will also rely on the MDGs National Progress Report, and the Post-Rio+20 Concept of the Strategy, which include recommendations on the SDGs, the outcome report of the Rapid Integrated Assessment, the national development and sectoral strategies, as well as international data sources.

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) will support the Government, to the extent possible, in the process of the nationalization of the 2030 Agenda, while the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator has expressed his readiness to provide any necessary facilitation support.

The Center for Strategic Initiatives (CSI) of the Armenian Government will play an active role in the nationalization of the SDGs. The role of the Center will be particularly pivotal in the process of mainstreaming nationalized SDG targets and indicators in the national development strategy, which is in the process of elaboration.

Phase 2: Integration

Once the relevant SDG targets and indicators are identified jointly with the Government, international development partners and civil society, the next step would be to initiate a discussion around mainstreaming/integrating the
nationalized targets and indicators into the existing Prospective Development Strategy Programme for 2014-2025 and relevant sectoral strategies.

Phase 3: Localization

Upon the integration of the nationalized SDG targets and indicators into the national development strategy and sectoral policies, the process of bringing them down to the regional development plans will be initiated. The Government will work closely with the regional municipalities to support that process through its programmatic activities in the regions. This step will be discussed in detail and agreed with the NCSD and the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development.

Phase 4: Monitoring

Once the SDGs are integrated into the regional development plans, the UNCT will work closely with the NCSD, National Statistical Service, Territorial Administration and Development Ministry, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to set up a mechanism for national, and possibly regional, monitoring of the SDGs. The UNCT will support the Government through its programmatic work on strengthening national capacity for data collection and analysis, and adjusting global expertise to the country’s specific needs.

Phase 5: Reporting

The national reporting modalities, including timeline and contributions from stakeholders and citizens will be discussed and agreed among the UNCT, Prime Minister’s Office, NCSD, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A regular reporting mechanism on SDG implementation should be agreed and set up. The possibility of preparing a voluntary presentation on the country’s progress in the implementation of the 2030 at the 2017 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development will be considered.

Thank you.

Vahram KAZHOYAN
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia,
Director of the Department of International Organizations,
Secretary General of the Armenian National Commission for UNESCO,
Head of the Inter-Agency Working Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Address: Government House #2, Republic Square 2, Yerevan, Armenia
Phone: +374 60 620 502
E-mail: v.kazhoyan@mfa.am       vahram@rocketmail.com

Sent from my iPhone