



**Office of the Chief Executive**  
**Executive Committee on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**  
**SDGs Coordination Unit**  
**The Executive Committee on SDGs meeting minutes**  
**Meeting #: 20**  
**Feb 5, 2019**

| No | Agenda                                                                                                                                | Duration |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1  | Opening remarks by H.E the Chief Executive and honorable Co-Chairs and adoption of the previous meeting minutes.                      | 10 Mins  |
| 2  | Presentation by MoEc about the ASDGs Alignment with NPPs (Alignment, Mechanism and Recommendations)                                   | 15 Mins  |
| 3  | Presentation by representative of UNRCO entitled: UN Development System Reform: placing the 2030 Agenda at the heart of the UN's work | 10 Mins  |
| 4  | Presentation by MoEc about the ASDGs Strategic Framework (2020-2030), - (Outline and Concept)                                         | 15 Mins  |
| 5  | (AOB)                                                                                                                                 | 15 Mins  |

The 20th meeting of the Executive Committee on SDGs took place at 3:00 pm, Tuesday, 5th February, 2019, at Sapedar Palace, Kabul, Afghanistan. The meeting was attended by H.E. Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, the Chief Executive of the Islamic republic of Afghanistan and co-chaired by H.E Mohammad Ismail Rahimi, Deputy Minister of Economy, Abdul Rahman Shekib, Economic and Development Advisor to the Chief Executive and Mr. Douglas Armour, Head of the Department on Governance, UNDP in Afghanistan. The meeting was attended by the government officials, International Organizations, civil society and private sector representatives.

To start the meeting, H.E Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, welcomed the participants and praised the efforts of all the stakeholders for their contribution to achieve the Agenda-2030 (SDGs).

H.E the Chief Executive, after listening to the primary discussions, advised that since the main current task of the Executive Committee on SDGs is the alignment of the NPPs with the SDGs, going to next step depends on completion of the alignment. Thus, the Executive Committee and the Working Groups (WGs) should jointly work on the mechanism for the alignment. The Chief Executive said that the NPPs under the infrastructure sector are not completed and still there is no mechanism for evaluation and implementation of these programmes. In order to make changes, political decision making needs to be taken at the level of the Government Leadership.

The Chief Executive emphasized that in the following years another step of NPPs will begin and other different programs will be created so from now on the alignment of the Target of the SDGs with the current NPPs should be prioritized to lay the groundwork for the future.

The Chief Executive also said that the implementation of the targets of the SDGs which are covered in the NPPs, there is no problem, but those targets that are not covered by the NPPs but are within the

implementation of SDGs should be included in the NPPs and the path of the NPPs should be changed to cover those targets. He further said, if some of the issues of alignment required decision making at the level of Government the issue will be raised at the cabinet meeting to make the decision.

H.E the chief Executive said that policy should be devised for all the targets and instructed that for monitoring and implementation of the SDGs, civil Society should be included too.

Mr. Ismail Rahimi, Deputy Economic Minister, welcomed the participants and reported about the implementations of the decisions of the 19<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting. He said almost all of the decision of the previous meetings have been implemented and the work on adapting the rest of them is on going. The decisions of the previous meeting were unanimously adopted. He then spoke about the three joint sessions of the co-chairs of the Executive Committee and about the working Group meetings. He said that during the three sessions important issues were discussed and necessary changes were made in the Terms of References (ToRs) and the action plans of the working Groups. Joint meeting was held between the committees of the coordination unit and in the meeting with the private sector representative, the involvement of the private sector in the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was discussed. Continuing he said, In the third joint meeting, the method for prioritization of the targets was discussed and it was decided that the Working Groups would work to prioritize the targets and present their views at the joint co-chairs meeting, and if required to be approved by the executive committee, those views should also be presented to the executive committee.

Continuing Mr. Rahimi said, at the meeting, the issue of the Data Gap which was prepared by the UNDP data expert was also discussed and it was decided that the documents should also be presented at the Working Groups Meetings, and the Working Groups should change the baseline Gaps, Targets and Indicators as recommended.

Mr Rahimi, said as everyone's is aware, the Afghanistan Sustainable Development Goals (A-SDGs) were introduced at the side-meeting on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the Geneva conference and had a good reflection among the participants, and in addition to the Main documents of the Geneva conference and the declaration(Communique) and the development documents (GMAF) also noted Afghanistan Sustainable Development Goals. He added that after the side meeting and the Geneva conference, steps were taken within the country led by the Executive Committee which can prepare the adaption document for the implementation of sustainable Development Goals between 2020 and 2030, also continued to accelerate issues such as alignment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the National Priority Programs (NPPs), modifying data and figures and organizing various meetings of the Working Groups, Joint meetings of the co-chairs of the Executive committee and the co-chairs of the Working Groups.

While continuing his remarks Mr. Rahimi said since the creation of the Executive Committee and he formation of the Working Groups, more than 100 meetings have been held and important decisions were made in these meetings and a significant portion of those decisions have been implemented. He said that the process of the adaption of the SDGs is going well and hopes that all the stakeholders in the implementation of SDGs will have a great and better share of the implementation of this important national program.

Mr. Abdul Rahman Shekib, Economic and development advisor to the Chief Executive of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, welcomed the participants of the meeting and said that the Deputy Minister of Economic has noted most of the important and remarkable issues and added that along with these issues, consideration should be given to two issues: the important issue is the alignment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the National Priority Programs (NPPs). On this issue a series of measures have been taken in the Ministry of Economy and other issues have been corrected. He said that without the correction of the figures and baseline data, alignment would be difficult and in order to obtain more accurate results from Alignment, stakeholders in the Working Groups should work with the statistics file, as well as coordinate with the National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA) to solve this problem as soon as possible. He informed that in the past one month, the first, second and third Working Groups (WG) held two meetings each, and

the fourth WG held one meeting. And in order to accelerate the process of work, some technical issues were also raised at the joint meetings of the Executive Committee and the co-chairs of the Working Groups, and necessary decisions were made. He added that the joint meetings were very beneficial and these meetings are the joint angle for the meetings of the working groups to the Executive Committee meetings.

Mr. Douglas Armour, Head of the Department on Governance, UNDP in Afghanistan, welcomed the participants, said to the participants about his satisfaction over the meeting of the Working Groups and the continuation on alignment. He also added that the level of participation in the Executive Committee meeting is promising and said that the A-SDGs works are going in the right direction. He added that the document on the evaluation of Data figures and correction of data is absolutely necessary and if this document has not been provided to all the members of the Executive Committee so far, the secretariat and the Ministry of Economy should provide this document. He said that the NSIA should take full responsibility for the statistics and this institution is the only reference to receive statistics for SDGs. He said that the capacity to provide statistics in the Ministries and agencies of the Afghan Government should be strengthened, since the role of the NSIA is crucial to the A-SDGs.

In the other part of the session, Mr. Mohamadullah Rahamdil, advisor to the UNDP, through a presentation presented the alignment of the SDGs with the NPPs. He said that a team at the UNDP has reviewed the extent to which SDGs were in alignment with the NPPs and the gap's in A-SDGs were identified by the UNDP consultant on Data. He said that the findings are that In the national development plans, the SDGs haven't been considered yet and there is a need for Alignment of these programs with the SDGs.

Mr. Rahamdil said that the Ministry of Economy, UNDP and the Ministry of Finance has worked together over the alignment issue and during these meetings it was decided to have a simple alignment Matrix that would be understandable to the colleagues at the Working Groups. He added that the first example of this matrix was over one of the goals of SDGs and was discussed at the meetings of the second and the third working groups, during the course of these meetings the corrected point of view was received, some of the necessary changes were entered and as a result, a framework of matching was developed which is now presented in the form of a matrix.

#### **Content of the Presentation:**

##### **Task Force Alignment of the SDGs and the NPPs:**

1. The Task force for NPPs goals has been created with the Ministry of Finance, the Economic and the UNDP.
2. Three technical meetings were held
3. Format of Alignment for SDGs and NPPS has been developed
4. Alignment format for NPPs objectives has been presented, defined and approved by the first and the third Working Group.

##### **Conformity of the Alignments:**

1. Identifying of the Policy Gap in implementing the objectives
2. Detecting the coverage level of SDGs at NPPs
3. Identification of the existing resources in NPPs that contribute to the achievement of SDGs
4. Identification of the areas where the government has been lagging behind in resource and justification

##### **Challenges:**

1. Most NPPs in the monitoring and evaluation section has problems.
2. Determine specific targets
3. Measuring progress
4. The list of continuous interactions in the work areas is unclear
5. The authorities are widely distributed
6. Dealing with the current problems if stock-take programs and the projects that support the completion if NPPS will restrict the alignment of the SDGs with the NPPs

##### **Recommendations:**

1. The process of alignment requires the cooperation of experts from the government agencies
2. Implementation plans of (NIP,CAD,Human Capital,Efgov) NPPs and costing of (CAD,EfGov,Human capital, NIP, WEE) NPPs are under development or revision, should be finalized.
3. To measure and report progress, or lack thereof, under various A-SDGs targets, the NPPs implementation plans should be developed at programmatic outcome.

Next steps:

- Alignment of the A-SDGs with the NPPs and produce A-SDGs-NPPs Alignment status Report (Narrative)

After the presentation Mr. Rahimi invited the participants to ask questions and share their views.

Ms. Fionna Gall, Director of ACBAR asked since the NPPs are short term programs and the SDGs are long term plans, how could alignment of these is compatible with each other.

Mr. Shekib asked, when the alignment of the targets of SDGs with the NPPs takes place and work on prioritization of the the targets also takes place, the how could this work be done with the current limited resources. He added that the members of the executive committee and the responsible departments are of the view that those targets of SDGs that are alignment with NPPS, should be prioritized and should be under consideration for 2,3 or 5 years.

Mr. Mohammad Nabi Sorosh, General Director of plan and Monitoring, Ministry of Economy, said that the goals of alignment activities are that the government's development and economic should adapted in the manner of SDGs, the targets & indicators of the SDGs should be aligned with the NPPs, and should determine the extent to which the achievement of the SDG objectives has been achieved through the implementation of the NPPs.

Mr. Rahimi also spoke of about this and said that the NPPs should be identified and should be aligned with the SDGs.

Ms Alexandra Simpsona, Head of coordination office, UNAMA, gave a presentation about the UN System reform in Afghanistan and said that a series of reform has been initiated in the UN system focusing on the following:

-system reform in the areas of Development, governance, security and peace.

She added that from now on the SDGs will be at the heart of the UN work and al the activities of ONE UN in Afghanistan will focus on the implementation and the Alignment of the SDGs in Afghanistan and the work towards the Alignment is undergoing.

Continuing with the presentation she added that the UN is working on the **"triple Nexus Program"** and a three dimensional link between Humanity-Development-Security and peace is there, and whenever one of these three dimensions is changed, it affects or somewhat changes the other two dimensions.

She further said that a joint team will be set up to link the ministry of Economy, Finance and the ONE UN entities to work jointly in the pursuit of the SDGs. She added that the process of representing the representatives of the ONE UN agencies is underway for the Working Groups and can be seen with the three working Groups: One,Two, Three, the work coordination has been established, but in the fourth WG a joint issue hasn't been found yet, and it is requested from the co-chairs of the fourth WG is requested to cooperate with the UNAMA to find joint issues.

She said that the UNAMA intends to set up a joint meeting of all the UN agencies in Kabul to familiarize them with the Afghanistan's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and this meeting will provide the opportunity for exchange of Dialogue and communication among the stakeholders of the SDGs and the UN agencies.

She also said that in the presentation several website links were included so that those interested into knowing more about the System Reform could visit the Websites to find further information's.

In the other part of the meeting, Mr. Kambez Rafayi, advisor to the Economic Minster, through a presentation presented "General plan for the Implementing SDGs for 2030-2030" which contained the following titles:

- Strategic preparation method

- Introducing Sustainable Development Goals
- Adaption Field
- Adoption strategic leadership
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- Second phase: Classification of Indicators
- Qualitative conditions for the Development of PI
- Important prerequisites
- Adaptation and monitoring structure
- Media leadership can collective Education
- Action plan
- Next steps

After the end of the presentation the participants of the meeting discussed and expressed their views.

Ms. Huamira Saqib, general Director of Civil Society Joint Work Group, proposed that in the Monitoring and Implementation of the SGD, the Civil Society should be included.

Mr. Shekib Prasied the importance of providing a comprehensive presentation, since “the overall plan for achieving the SDGs from 2030-2030” is a broad debate.

Mr. Shinwari, Deputy Minister of Education, said that there should be a funding plan and it should be noted which department to co-operate with it.

Mr. Alexander Simpsona, reported that ONE UN (UN Teams) work with WGs and will report from the status of its activities in the next three months. He hopefully stated One UN will provide a document in which every UN Agency will assigned to follow one major goal and in long term provide a mechanism for the financial support of A-SDGs. He also added that they work to engaged the Donors in implementation of A-SDGs and will report the result of the work in the next meeting of the Committee. Mr. Simpsona also informed the audience that UNAMA will invite representative of all other UN Agencies to a meeting and introduce A-SDGs in detail. Mr. Ajmal Poya, from the EU suggested to link the mentioned strategy to the financial sources of the donors.

Mr. Sultan Aziz, the UN advisor, noted that the strategic plan for 2020-2030 A-SDGs is very important step for attaining the SDGs. He thanked the initiator of this plan. He called prioritization of the A-SDGs target also an important task for taking the A-SDGs ahead and urged to complete it early enough. Because the current financial barriers of the Afghan government and international donors, it is very difficult to attain all the nationalized goals and targets. He considered the prioritization as a political procedure and the work of the government to make decision on so that pave the way for implementation of the prioritized targets. Mr. Rahimi also thanked the presenter and urged all the UN agencies to get engaged in implement of the two-years plan for implementation of A-SDGs which is expected to end up in 2020. But he stated the further work needs on the strategic plan for A-SDGS between 2020 to 2030. Mr. Rahimi also said that prioritization of the targets is very important and there is a need for joint efforts of all involving entities to make a clear framework for this end so that all the responsible parties jointly select their prioritized targets. In addition, he said that roughly a year time is needed to prioritize the targets in the A-SDGs 2020-2030 strategic plan. Thus he asked all the stakeholders to start the task from now. However, he noted that at the end of the day, all the targets to be attained, hence the prioritization shall be done in a manner to pave the way for implementation of all the targets in long term. Mr. Rahimi suggested to share the outline of the plan for all the A-SDGs stakeholders to make they aware of the plan.

#### **Summary of the decisions and actions to be taken**

1. The Committee appreciate the WGs for regular conduction of their meeting and asked co-chairs of the Groups to attend the meetings at the deputy level. The Co-chairs the secretariat make sure to follow the decision,

2. UNAMA to introduce representatives of other UN agencies for the membership of the WGs. UNAMA, MoEc and the secretariat are responsible for,
3. The Task Force Committee for alignment of NPPs with A-SDGs ought to work faster to complete the task. The Committee Co-Chairs are asked to help in this regards,
4. The prioritized targets which are not covered by NPPs ought to be identified and discussed in the Cabinet meetings about their inclusion in the NPPs. MoEc and the Secretariat are responsible for,
5. The Committee appreciate UNAMA for presentation on System Reforms cooperation of the agency to prepare of the Donors lists for the Public Awareness of A-SDGs. MoEc and the Secretariat make sure to help UNAMA in this regard,
6. The outline of the strategic program for A-SDGs for 2020-2030, be shared with all members of the Committee for their review and comments. The Members ought to share their views with MoEc. Plus, the PPP presented in today's meeting be shared with the Committee members. MoEc and the Secretariat are responsible for,
7. The Committee and WGs members review the MoFa annual report on Vienna program of Actions and share the result of their reviews with the Secretariat and MoFa. MoFa and the Secretariat make sure to follow it,
8. Alignment and prioritization of A-SDGs targets ought to be the main Agenda for the upcoming meeting of joint meeting of Co-Chairs of the Committee and WGs. The secretariat shall facilitate Interpreter for the meeting,
9. Next meeting of the Committee will be held at the same time and venue on 5 March 2019. The Secretariat is responsible for arranging the meeting.

**Uncompleted actions that decided to be done in the previous meeting of the Committee:**

2. A coordination session of the Donor communities should be held at Sapidar palace with the cooperation of MoEc and MoF. MoEc and Executive Committee should take responsibility,
10. National Document on Sustainable Development Goals (A-SDGs) should be presented at the high council on poverty reduction. Then the details of this documents should be briefly put for approval at the Cabinet meeting. The MoEc take responsibility.

- **Mohammad Mustafa Mastoor,**  
Minister of Economy

- **Abdul Rahman Shekib,**  
Economic and Development Advisor to the Chief Executive of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan,

- **Jocelyn Mason,**  
Country Director of UNDP,