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Regional Conference Towards a Common Vision for Agenda 2030 in Central Asia

2–4 November, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Venue: Hotel “Ramada”

Draft Version 14, October 24 2016¹

Background

In September 2015, the world community agreed on a transformative agenda for people, planet, and prosperity called the 2030 Agenda and a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in order to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including recognition of extreme poverty as the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. The Agenda, though global in scope, its implementation will differ among countries and regions, thus requires adaptation and tailoring to *national*, *sub-national* and local circumstances and contexts.

The Central Asian region is facing environmental, economic, and social challenges that need to be addressed in the nearest future to ensure transition to a more sustainable development trajectory. In this context, SDGs offer a turning point for the countries to help overcome the challenges and support the countries in their transition towards an inclusive green economy. Implementation of SDGs at the regional and national level requires an active involvement and partnerships of all actors from CA countries and policy makers, representing ministries, national agencies, regional institutions, civil society organizations, private sector and the public at large.

Within the UN system, UNDP, UNEP and others are working collaboratively to support Governments in the planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting, and review of policies and actions linked to the 2030 Agenda. UNDP-UNEP have been supporting efforts (through the Poverty-Environment Initiative²) to improve the ability of governments to steer natural resources better, to reduce poverty, promote environmental

¹ This is a pre-final draft of agenda. In case of any questions please email Mihail Peleah mihail.peleah@undp.org, UNDP IRH and/or Saltanat Zhakenova szhakenova@carececo.org, CAREC.

² The Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is a global programme that supports country-led efforts to put pro-poor, pro-environment objectives into the heart of government by mainstreaming poverty-environment objectives into national development and sub-national development planning, from policymaking to budgeting, implementation and monitoring. <http://www.unpei.org/>

The Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) is funded by



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sustainability and meet the intertwined challenges set by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Mainstreaming poverty –environment linkages into national development has shown benefits that can address SDGs implementation. UNDP and UNEP have been mainstreaming poverty and environment objectives in national and sub-national development planning in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, since 2010.

UNDP Country Offices countries have already started activities on SDGs mainstreaming into national strategies and plans. In most of the Central Asia countries the United Nations Country Team has launched a series of consultations to discuss the SDGs and ways of their localization.

In order to take stock of what has been achieved thus far in the SDG dialogue for Central Asia and to exchange experience from the mainstreaming of sustainable development concerns UNDP, and UNEP are proposing a joint regional conference on a “Common Vision for Agenda 2030 in Central Asia”. This conference will be undertaken in conjunction with CAREC³ as a regional entity working on environmental issues across central Asia and with support of UNWOMEN.

Vision

The Regional Conference is envisaged to establish a regional dialogue on SDGs with a distinct focus on Green Economy and delivering on the environmental dimension. The event will raise awareness, develop the capacity, and strengthen the engagement of regional and national stakeholders with respect to Central Asian sustainability issues and the possible ways to address them jointly, through potential alignment of regional and national strategies with the SDGs. In that sense, it will serve as a platform to explore opportunities for developing joint regional actions for Agenda 2030.

Objectives

- To strengthen cooperation between national institutions (key authorities) and other stakeholders (NGOs, Academia, regional CSOs) on SDGs implementation at regional and national levels;
- To inform on the latest developments with global, regional and national processes on follow up and review of the Agenda 2030 and the ways that sustainable development can materialize in Central Asia;
- To introduce the experience from the elaboration of the education curriculum and the joint vision for Agenda 2030 that was developed during the CAREC regional training of trainers on SDGs;
- To take stock and further explore sectoral issues on thematic areas of green economy (e.g. agriculture, ecosystems based adaptation, natural capital) and financing for Sustainable Development;
- To formulate a joint statement and a list of actions for SDG support and implementation at regional level in Central Asia.

Participants

The three-day Regional Conference will bring together national (from five countries of Central Asia) and international partners: Representatives of national authorities responsible for different sectors, SDG focal points within government and UNDP Country Offices, policy makers and technical experts in SDGs and Central Asia, educators from governments and NGOs, UN regional organizations and UN agencies, GiZ, IFAS involved in the implementation of Agenda 2030. Invitations is extended other potential collaborators, like Russian institutions (e.g. UNEP’s partners in Stavropol region and Moscow)⁴.

³ The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) was established in accordance with the decision of the 4th Pan-European Conference held in Aarhus (Denmark). Its mission is to promote multi-sector cooperation in addressing environmental problems in Central Asia at the local, national and regional levels. Founders of CAREC are Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan), as well as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Commission (EC). <http://carecnet.org/about-carec/?lang=en>

⁴ The Russian ODA has clearly indicated Central Asia as a key priority target sub-region. It becomes necessary to create a network of Russian experts and institutions that will collaborate with UNEP and UNDP and that will fulfil a key requirement of the Russian ODA. UNEP ROE has done the first steps in this direction with Stavropol entities. The Moscow UNEP Office effectively liaise in this role with the help of colleagues who have the knowledge of the programmes, substance, and sub-region.

Conference formation

During the event the five Central Asia countries will discuss specific initiatives that they have undertaken to initiate SDG processes, the existing partnerships, if any, with UNDP in support of the SDGs in the country.

The event will also facilitate debate of national issues related to Agenda 2030, the added value of the poverty-environment nexus in the SDG discussion, such as integrated approach on enhancing knowledge base and mainstreaming sustainable development concerns and objectives into national and sub national planning processes, as well as on the role of strategic national partners and policy makers in mainstreaming SDGs at national and sub-national levels. Country presentations will follow the plenary discussions and presentations of best practices from different range of stakeholders.

The conference will also focus on delivering a joint regional vision and specific actions to be taken by the region towards implementation of SDGs. An outcome document “Joint vision of Central Asia countries on SDGs” will be based on results of participative during the conference, review of national activities led by UN Country Teams, and other inputs by participants of the conference. It will contain proposals for actions and cooperation measures for the region. The measures will concentrate on maintaining and supporting the SDG process at national, regional and global levels and ensure contribution to the universal approach of Agenda 2030.

Agenda

Time	Activity / Topic	Speakers / participants
2 November	Day 1: Towards realization of agenda 2030 in Central Asia	
8:30 – 09:00 30 min	Participants' registration. Welcome coffee.	
	Opening	
09:00 – 09:30 30 min	Opening remarks: Objectives and expected outputs. Setting up the scene George Bouma (UNDP IRH)	Representatives Rastislav Vrbensky, UNDP Jan Dusik, UNEP Heinrich Wyes, Deputy Executive Director, CAREC MFA, Kazakhstan (TBC)
Session 1.	High level panel on status of Agenda 2030 in Central Asia	Moderator: Nara Luvsan, UNEP
09:30 – 11:00 1 hr 30 mins	The five Central Asia countries provide comments on the role of Agenda 2030 in national development Presentations on progress of nationalization, implementation, and financing for SDGs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kazakhstan • Kyrgyzstan • Tajikistan • Turkmenistan • Uzbekistan 	Presentations by the Government Representatives Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan Turkmenistan Uzbekistan
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break and Group photo	
Session 2	UN System support for Agenda 2030	Moderator: Rastislav Vrbensky, UNDP IRH
11:30 – 13:00 1 hr 30 mins	UNDG MAPS and Support for Agenda 2030 UN System and Regional organization present ongoing and planned activities to support SDGs along three main lines: (i) Agency commitments; (ii) Plans for support in Central Asia; and (iii) Concerns and issues related to SDG nationalization/regionalization. Presentations delivered by pair of organization will be followed by questions from panel moderator. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP and ICSD • UNECE and IFAS • UNWOMEN and IEAG • UNDP and CAREC Q&A and Panel discussion	Invited UN agencies to define their support to SDGs under the MAPS guidance George Bouma, UNDP Jan Dusik, UNEP UNECE (TBC) Nargis Azizova, UNWOMEN Ms. Orozbayeva Kanykey, Kyrgyzstan National Statistics Committee, member of IAEG (TBC) IFAS (TBC) ICSD (TBC) Nailya Mustayeva, Manager of CCSE program, CAREC
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	

Time	Activity / Topic	Speakers / participants
Session 3	Partnership Towards Integrating Environment into Agenda 2030	Moderator: Umed Davladzod, Moderator Umed Davladzod, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan (TBC)
14:00 – 15:30 1 hr 30 mins	<p>The strategic partnerships toward the Agenda 2030 in CA region. Review of experience and expertise available in countries for joint learning and cooperation: How can governments, citizens, and businesses collaborate innovatively towards SDGs prioritization, nationalization implementation and reporting</p> <p>National experience and 5 case studies. Each UNDP Country Office to present a partnership approach to Sustainable Development challenge and green economy introduction - environmental integration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kazakhstan • Kyrgyzstan • Tajikistan • Turkmenistan • Uzbekistan 	<p>Each presentation 10 minutes</p> <p>Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan Turkmenistan Uzbekistan</p>
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break	
Session 4	Working / focus groups: prioritizing sustainable development objectives for regional implementation in Central Asia (environment focus): challenges and solutions at regional level	
15:45 – 17:45 2 hrs	<p>Towards common SDG vision for Central Asia countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro session to interactive exercise by Saltanat Zhakenova, Lead specialist, EMP Programme, CAREC and Mihail Peleah, UNDP IRH <p>Working/focus group exercise</p> <p>Participants will be break up into 10 working groups, each dealing with specific SDG theme in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss if the presented priority topics from a working scheme are relevant to all Central Asia countries • Identify what additional common priority issues could be included to this working scheme in order to meet a Green Economy context • Discuss proposed key challenges from the previous list (scheme) and identify additional priorities to be included • Discuss proposed key solutions to address the challenges and include new once to be included to the scheme <p>Session facilitator (Nara Luvsan and Mihail Peleah) deliver summary presentation of findings of working/focus groups (20 mins)</p>	<p>Session facilitators Nara Luvsan, UNEP and Mihail Peleah, UNDP IRH</p> <p>Each working group will have an individual facilitator</p>
17:45—18:00	Reflections and Wrap up of Day 1	Mihail Peleah, UNDP IRH
19:00	Welcome reception	

Time	Activity / Topic	Speakers / participants
3 November	Day 2: Moving from MDGs to SDGs and Greening Economies	
09:00 – 09:15	Recap of Day 1	Mihail Peleah, UNDP IRH
	Overview of the UN Agenda 2030 from global perspective (from MDG to SDG, and main progress and results in Central Asia) - focus on sustainable development challenges	George Bouma, UNDP
Session 5	SDGs in the context of Green Economy – panel	Moderator: Heinrich Wyes, Deputy Executive Director , CAREC
09:15 – 11:00 1 hr 45 mins	Panel discussion and plenary promoting greener economies Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment SDGs and Agenda 2030, Fulai Sheng, UNEP • Climate Change and Reducing Risk in Central Asia by Armen Grigoryan, CC/DRR Team, UNDP IRH • Mainstreaming of Environment and the poverty environment nexus, George Bouma, UNDP Nara Luvsan, UNEP, Isabell Kempf, PEF • Opportunities for regional cooperation in CA for Agenda 2030 implementation, Shakhboz Akhmedov, Manager of KPRM Unit, CAREC 	Fulai Sheng, UNEP Armen Grigoryan, CC/DRR Team, UNDP IRH George Bouma, UNDP , Nara Luvsan, UNEP, Isabell Kempf, PEF Shakhboz Akhmedov, Manager of KPRM Unit, CAREC
	Q&A and panel discussion	
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee Break	
Session 6	SDGs and regional Green Economy approaches. (I)	Moderator: Tatiana Shakirova, CAREC
11:15 – 12:45 1 hr 30 mins	A regional platform to support the environmental dimension of Agenda 2030 / SDG nationalization and implementation at country level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and Reporting on the environmental dimension of the SDGs: Statistical Indicators and data sources. Fulai Sheng UNEP and Mihail Peleah UNDP, IRH • Role of Environmental Financing in SDGs. Armen Grigoryan, UNDP IRH and Fulai Sheng, UNEP • Environmental accounting and natural resources management. UNECE (TBC) • Practical examples for SDGs mainstreaming on regional level. Lyudmila Kiktenko, CAREC • Closing gender data gap – UN Women new flagship programme Making every woman and girl count 	CAREC/UNDP/UNEP Fulai Sheng UNEP and Mihail Peleah UNDP, IRH Armen Grigoryan, UNDP IRH and Fulai Sheng, UNEP UNECE (TBC) Lyudmila Kiktenko, CAREC Nargis Azizova, UNWOMEN
	Q&A and panel discussion	
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch	

Time	Activity / Topic	Speakers / participants
Session 7	SDGs and regional Green Economy approaches. (II)	Moderator: Mihail Peleah, UNDP IRH
13:45 – 15:45 1hr 45 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty Environment Facility: “Sustainability of PE and integration within SDGs”. Kayla Keenan, Isabella Kempf, PEF Sustainable Land Management. PEF (TBC) Engendering land reform (Case in Tajikistan), Tatyana Bozrikova, gender expert Partnership for Action for Green Economy (PAGE). Nara Luvsan, UNECE 	Kayla Keenan, Isabella Kempf, PEF PEF (TBC) Nara Luvsan, UNECE Tatyana Bozrikova, gender expert 15 mins each
	Q&A and panel discussion	
15:45 – 16:00	Coffee Break	
Session 8	Developing a Common Vision / Action Plan for the Environmental Dimension of Agenda 2030 In CA	Breakup groups remain the insane as in Day 1
16:00 – 17:45 1 hr 45 mins	Interactive Session: Developing the Conference Outcome document, which will include specific project ideas and an action plan with a specific timeframe. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present the scheme/pyramid with identified priorities for CA towards SDGs based on group exercises Present the draft of the Conference Outcome document and action plan based on identified priorities Together with the participants review the document and include additional points: project ideas, needs, actions and timeframe 	Session facilitators Nara Luvsan, UNEP and Mihail Peleah, UNDP IRH Each working group will have an individual facilitator
	Session facilitator (Nara Luvsan and Mihail Peleah) deliver summary presentation of findings of working/focus groups (20 mins)	
17:45—18:00	Reflections and Wrap up of Day 2	Mihail Peleah, UNDP IRH

Time	Activity / Topic	Speakers / participants
4 November	DAY 3: Building Support at the National and Regional Level	
09:00 – 09:15	Recap of Days 1 and 2	Mihail Peleah, UNDP IRH
Session 9	SDGs and regional Green Economy approaches (III)	Moderator: Lyudmila Kiktenko, Manager of EMP, CAREC
09:15 – 10:45 1 hr 30 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressing needs for capacity building of decision-makers: the Training Module for mid-level policy makers on SDGs Capacity building needs for mainstreaming SDGs on national levels: Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan Overview of the Training Module structure National/country specifics for development of the Training Module: cases of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan Capacity for Agenda 2030 (over Skype) <p>Q&A</p>	<p>Saltanat Zhakenova, Lead specialist, CAREC Umed Davlatzod, National Project Coordinator in Tajikistan and Lubov Ten, National Project Coordinator in Kyrgyz Republic</p> <p>Saltanat Zhakenova, Lead specialist, CAREC Rustam Babajanov (National Consultant of the project) and Zhyldyz Duishenova (National Consultant of the project) Elena Proden, UNITAR</p>
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee Break	
Session 10	Support for SDGs in Central Asia region	Moderator: George Bouma, UNDP IRH
11:00 – 12:00 1 hr 00 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Russian Federation ODA: role of Green Economy in Central Asia Building network of Russian experts and institutions to support Green Economy for SDGs in Central Asia The work of RF-UNDP Trust Fund and the Green Economy support for Central Asia 	<p>Russian MFA (TBC) Stavropol University (TBC) Natalia Voronkova, UNDP Partnership Team, UNDP CO from Central Asia (TBC)</p>
12:00—12:45 45 mins	Wrap up and concluding meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Gani Sadibekov, Vice – Minister Ministry of Energy Mr. Normasa Shimomura, UN RC, UNDP RR in Kazakhstan 	<p>Mr. Gani Sadibekov, Vice – Minister Ministry of Energy (TBC) Mr. Normasa Shimomura, UN RC, UNDP RR in Kazakhstan (TBC)</p>
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch	
Session 11	UN System Support for SDGs in Central Asia region (internal UNDP meeting)	
14:00 – 17:00 3 hrs	Discussions on ways forward (Separate agenda will be provided)	