



**Office of The Chief Executive
Executive Committee on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
SDGs Coordination Unit**

Subject: Meeting Minutes
Date: July 2, 2017
Time: 10:00 am
Venue: Sapidar Palace
No: 1

Summary of 1st SDG Executive Committee Meeting

- The official launch of the SDGs Executive Committee was commenced with an opening statement by H.E Dr. Abdullah Abdullah; where he expressed the commitment of the Government towards socio-economic development and stability of the nation. This is the rationale for the establishment of the SDGs Executive Committee, which is a platform integrated within the inter-ministerial workings of the Government rather than merely being an addition of another layer in it.

H.E emphasized on the significance and openness of the Committee as a coordinating mechanism, focused towards the cross-cutting nature of the SDGs; for this reason the relevant Ministries, through coordination with the MoE should approach the Committee should they be in need of any support required for the execution of SDGs which may be ambitious in certain aspects. And within their own system, every Ministry must be proactive.

He went on to emphasize the significance of the focus of the Committee being aimed towards all provinces and not just Kabul.

The importance of the role, input and transparency of the international partners was also highlighted. The aim highlighted is the effective use of time and Government resources with regards to the SDGs.

H.E suggested that the agenda for the upcoming year should be finalized and shared with all the involved agencies; as the aim of the Committee is better coordination over cross-cutting issues, rather than centralization. He also expressed the Government's commitment towards shifting the international community's perspective of Afghanistan.

H.E stated that the road so far has not been smooth and many a challenges have been overcome to stand where we are today; he stated that conflict cannot be an excuse for not achieving the targets.

- H.E Abdul Sattar Murad then gave a statement where he specified that the rationale behind the formation of this committee is the vital need of political support for the SDGs so as to incorporate SDGs within the workings of the Government at a grass root level. He appreciated the efforts of the Council of Ministers in achieving such milestones that shall lead to the successful attainment of the SDGs. Mention was made of the delegation headed to New York to attend the HLPF whose core focus shall be the SDGs. He also suggested that all Ministries must take it as an obligation to support the execution of SDGs. He further recommended that Embassies and other international agencies coordinate with the Ministry of Economy Secretariat for a more synergetic approach. He also emphasized the significance of accurate baselines and targets to be set in this year as they will not be easily amended once set.
- Mr. Douglas Keh, Chairman UNDP in his statement emphasized the vitality of coordination amongst all the relevant Institutes and Agencies. He commemorated the exceptional leadership and progress achieved by the Government with regards to SDGs; and also held that Afghanistan is not slacking but is doing well in this regards when compared internationally and the progress made is commendable. He expressed the willingness of UNDP to provide technical support in this regards whenever needed and was pleased by the fact that the Afghan Government went on to seek such support in 2015. He shed light on the contrast of MDGs and SDGs where the latter also focuses on environmental issues. The focus of the members must be to adapt to unforeseen future issues and challenges that may arise on the road to achieving SDGs. He ended his statement by stating that the Afghan Government must count on the continued support of UNDP.
- H.E Mr. Nasrullah Arsalai Director General Council of Ministers Secretariat then gave a speech where he showed his appreciation for the efforts of the Office of the Chief Executive of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, that have led to the execution of the establishment of the SDGs Executive Committee. He also expressed his gratitude to Dr. Mastoor for his leadership and management and Mr. Rahman Shekib for the extension of technical support throughout the process. He further expressed his appreciation of the efforts of the Ministry of Economy and H.E Mr. Abdul Sattar Murad for his efforts thus far and stated that the Committee and the Council of Ministers shall extend continued support to the Ministry of Economy. Upon extending his gratitude to the UNDP and Mr. Douglas Keh for the provision of continued support in this regard, he went on to express the significance of the structure of the SDGs Executive Committee in aiding the coordination and synergetic aims that lie at the core of the Committee's focus. He ended his speech by opening the floor to Mr. Hafizullah Baha Unit Head SDGs.
- Mr. Baha then gave an elaborate presentation starting with the rationale behind the formation of the Committee and leading towards an explanation of the structure and goals of the SDGs Executive Committee.

- When the floor was opened for open discussions MoTC mentioned that they have already prepared a document with a work plan for each of the Working Groups and they shall forward it to Mr. Arsalai's office so that it may be shared with the members and co-chairs.
- Dr. Mastoor mentioned the successful execution of PriSEC and DiREC Executive Committees and mentioned that the launch of 5 out of 10 Executive Committees (Including SDGs, PriSEC and DiREC) is in the pipeline and shall be commenced in the near future. These Executive Committees are to feed their work on policy recommendations to the Economic Committee. H.E the Chief Executive then stated that all stakeholders are to benefit from these Executive Committees.
- H.E Dr. Abdullah Abdullah then ended the meeting by mentioning his permission allowing the availability of Sapedar Palace as the designated venue for holding all Executive Committee Meetings.