



**Office of the Chief Executive**

**Executive Committee on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

**SDGs Coordination Unit**

**Minutes of the Seventh EC on SDG Meeting**

**Meeting #:7**

**Date: 14/11/2017**

<b>NO</b>	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Duration</b>
1	Opening Remarks by H.E. Mustafa Mastoor, Acting Minister of Economy of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	5 Minutes
2	Remarks by Honorable Co-Chairs and Adoption of minutes of the previous meeting	10 Minutes
3	Update on progress by Working Group I	5 Minutes
4	Update on progress by Working Group II	5 Minutes
5	Update on progress by Working Group III	5 Minutes
6	Update on progress by Working Group IV	5 Minutes
7	SDGs costing and alignment taskforce report by MoEc	10 Minutes
8	Update about progress of technical training workshop on SDGs for all the WGs	10 Minutes

	by MoEc	
9	AOB	10 Minutes

The seventh meeting of the Executive Committee on SDG was convened at 10:00 Am on 14-11-2017, at Sapidar Palace in Kabul. The meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Mustafa Mastoor and Mr. Douglas, UNDP representative in Kabul and was attended by representatives of the Committee members.

At the beginning, H.E Mustafa Mastoor, welcomed the participant and conveyed his delight for the decent activities of the working groups including those of finalization of their ToR. Pointing to the future activities, he once again directed the Groups to finalize their Action Plan by end of November. Throughout his remarks, H.E Mastoor referred to the recent nationwide survey of the Asia Foundation(TAF) in Afghanistan which reminds the status of poverty in Afghanistan. “According to the survey findings, poverty is a serious challenges of the country. As elimination of poverty an important Goal of SDGs, the finding further increases the meaning of SDG agenda in Afghanistan.” He said.

H.E Mastoor raised the lack of proper action plan in the past two months’ activities with regards to SDG in Afghanistan and suggested to arrange it for the upcoming two Months-January and February-implementation of SDG. H.E Mastoor directed the Secretariat of SDG and the Ministry of Economy to work on the plan. In his ending remarks, H.E Mastoor called upon the board to do the following tasks:

- In case of facing difficulties in finalization of Targets and Baselines, the MoE and the Secretariat support the working groups;
- MoE, MoWA and CSO shall be involved in all Working Groups,
- In the subsequent meetings of the Executive Committee on SDG, representatives of theWorking Groups report their activities in short, precise and on-point manner.

Following the remarks by H.E Mostafa Mastoor, Mr. Douglas, a UNDP representative also welcomed the board members. He expressed his regrets for the absence of Jocelyn Mason, deputy head of SDG program at UNDP in Afghanistan. Mr. Douglas, also extended his warm appreciation from the achievements of the working groups in finalization of their ToR and conduction of regular meetings. He once again repeated the strong commitment of UNDP for the support of SGD Program in Afghanistan. At the end of introductory remarks by the Co-chair members, H.E Mustafa Mastoor asked for the members’ agreement on the content of the Committee’s sixth meeting minutes, which was approved by the meeting participants.

In his next statements, H.E Mastoor, spoke about the importance of public awareness on SDG. “Towards this end, MoE has taken a number of actions. But the nature of works needs joint activities of the stakeholders. Therefore, it would be good for the MoF, UNDP and MoE to work together in preparation of the budget for the public awareness program.” He stated.

Mrs. Humaira Saqeb, the head of Civil Society Network Working Group suggested to introduce representatives of the Civil Society Network into all working groups. Towards this end, she proposed that the network will introduce four representatives for each working group. The suggestion was approved by H.E Mustafa Mastoor. In the next stages of the meeting, representatives of all working groups updated the board from their past activities.

Mr. Reza Kateb, General Director of Policy and Planning from MoI, briefed the attendants about the past 15 days' activities of working group-1. "The group conducted two meetings. In the meetings, we finalized ToR and trying to finalize the baselines in our next meeting." He stated. Speaking on the current problems of the Group, Mr. Kateb complained from the low level appearance of the group members in the meetings and asked the committee to deal with the issue. Pointing to the Public Awareness program, Mr. Kateb reported that MoI already conducted an awareness workshop on SDG for a Police Unit in Balkh Province and aim to extend it for all staff of the Ministry. Raising the issue of data availability, Mr. Kateb argued that lack of accurate data is a big source of concern which need to promptly be solved. Speaking on the targets of the goal related to working group-1, Mr. Kateb said that reduction in the death rate due to Traffic accidents, is a key target of the Goal-2 of SDG. Therefore, it would be helpful to include MoPH as the member of working group-1 to effectively realize the target. In response, Mr. Ahmad Khan Nayeem, deputy minister of policy and planning of MoPH stated that the ministry will participate in the group's meetings, but would not get its regular membership.

Furthermore, Mr. Mohammad Esa Qudrat, and Advisor to MRRD, informed the participants about activities of the Working Group-2. He reported that the Group's ToR is already finalized works going on to finalize the Targets and Baselines. Based on Mr. Qudrat's briefing, MRRD has established a sub-Committee on SDG which already held its meeting with the presence of H.E Minister of MRRD. Similar to the concern of the Working Group-1, Mr. Qudrat also complained about the low level participation of the group member. Towards this issue, he said that the group already prepared a list of absent members and will share it with the Committee. Following Mr. Qudrat Remarks, Mr. Mujibullah Suliamankhil, General Director of Policy and Planning of MAIL made insights about the SDG in general and activities of working Group-2 in particular. In his talking, Mr. Suliamankhil, in addition to support of Mr. Qudrat statements and updates, asked MoPH to get the membership the group-2. However, representative of MoHP responded that the ministry will participate in the group's meeting, but will not get the membership.

Responding to the concerns raised in updates of Working Group-1 and 2, H.E Mustafa Mastoor state the low level attendance as concerning challenge and promised to share it in the meeting of council of ministers so that find a way out. Taking the opportunity, he again restated that Targets and Baselines ought to be finalized by the end of November.

Successively, the representatives of working group-3 reported their activities. On behalf of the group, Mr. Mohammad Ahmad Jan Nayeem, Deputy Minister of Policy and Planning of MoPH reported the group's activities. He said that the group members finalized its ToR and working on the Baselines and Targets are underway. He also discussed about the goal on clean drinking water and stated it is more relevant to MRRD than MoPH, Thus, it gives more sense to shift the goal to the working Group-2.

Mr. Mohammad Nabi Soroush, General Director of Policy of MoE briefed the members on the activities of the fourth working Group. He noted that the group finalized its ToR and conducted five meetings over the past 15 days. Mr. Soroush also highlighted that the group will finalize its targets and baselines in the next meeting of the group which has been scheduled to be held around next week. He also delivered a short presentation explained about the efforts of MoE on Public Awareness as well as development of a website and mobile application on SDG.

In closing, H.E Mustafa Mastoor shared the participants about the MoE plan to conduct a major Workshop in due course and invite all national and international NGOs in it. He also criticized the current coverage of NGOs activities in the country, which majorly focus on Kabul. while based on his view, expansion of NGOs activities into the provincial and district level are crucial for the successful implementation of SDGs in the country. H.E Mastoor also informed the participants about his plan to attend in an International Forum on SDG which will be held in Qatar and promised to share the forum results with the committee members in the Committee's next meeting.

#### **Actions to be taken:**

- The next meeting discussions ought to be focused only on finalization of targets and baselines;
- Targets and Baseline be finalized by the end of November;
- Secretariat prepare an Action Plan for the next two months and present it to the Committee;
- Prepare the ToR of all working groups with the same format;
- MoE, the Secretariat and UNDP jointly work to finalize the baselines;
- List of both present and absent members of the working groups be prepared and submitted to the committee;
- The next meeting will be held in the same venue on 28 November 2017.