



Office of the Chief Executive
Executive Committee on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
SDGs Coordination Unit
Minutes of the Seventh EC on SDG Meeting
Meeting #: 8
Date: 19/12 /2017

NO	Meeting Agenda	Duration
1	Opening Remarks by Honorable Co-Chairs and Adoption of minutes of the previous meeting	10 Minutes
2	Update on progress of Working Groups (I, II, III and IV) about their meetings arrangement and activities on the targets, baselines and Action Plans	40 Minutes
3	Update about progress of technical training workshop on SDGs for all WGs by MoEc	15 Minutes
4	AOB	15 Minutes

The eight meeting of the Executive Committee on SDG convened at 10:00 Am on Tuesday, 19 December of 2017 at Sapidar Palace. The meeting was Co-Chaired by honorable Mohammad Ismail Rahimi, Deputy Minister planning and policy at the Ministry of Economy, honorable Nasrullah Arsalayee, Director General of Council of Ministers and Mr. Douglas Armaur, Head of Governance Unit of UNDP in Afghanistan. Representatives from the Afghan Government agencies, CSOs, Private Sector and foreign representatives had also participated in the meeting.

At the beginning, the honorable Mohammad Ismail Rahimi welcomed the participants and introduced the meeting agenda. He also expressed his contentment from the recent attainments of the Working Groups (WGs). In particular, he was delighted with the fact that targets, indicators and baselines are almost finalized. Ahead of shifting to the second phase of the meeting, the minutes of the previous meeting was approved by the participants.

In his turn, honorable Nasrullah Arsalayee, Director General of Council of Ministers welcomed the participants too and briefly explained the reasons of the delay in the Committee's meeting and said that two major reasons led the committee to postpone the meetings: First, the Committee aimed to provide adequate time for the WGs to finalize their targets, indicators and baselines. Second reason was that one of the Co-Chair members had travelled abroad for an official purpose. He also expressed his content from the success of the WGs' meetings including those of maintaining decent coordination between the Ministry of Economy, Secretariat of Coordination Unit and the WGs members. As the future task, Mr. Arsalayee asked the party members to share their policies related to the SDGs with the Secretariat and

provide the baseline from reliable sources. In case of facing any problem regarding setting the baseline, he asked the WGs to raise the issue in the next meeting of the Executive Committee to find a solution for. Raising the concern upon irregularity of CSOs input in the process, Mr. Arsalayee directed the SCO to actively participate in all WGs' meeting. He also declared his expectation from the WGs to convene weekly meetings and asked each group member to establish a technical team of SDGs in their organizations.

Mr. Douglas Armaur, the UNDP representative also welcomed the participants and inhibited his happiness from the recent attainments of the WGs. He once again emphasized that UNDP represents the UN family to supports the SDGs agenda in Afghanistan. He also added that UNDP is ready to provide technical support in alignment process of SDGs with other national developmental programs such as NPP and ANPDF.

Mr. Reza katib, General Director of Planning and Policy at the Interior Ministry, briefed the board on activities of WG-1. He said that WG-1 have not conducted meeting since the last meeting of the Executive Committee. However, the co-chairs members of the Group arranged a number of meetings with Ministry of Economy and discussed in details about the targets, indicators and baselines related to the WG-1. Pointing to some challenges ahead of the Group, Mr. Kateb stated that there is no data about status of women harassment in the Ministry of Interior. Thus, in the co-chairs members meeting, it has been proposed to ministries of Economy and Women affairs to deal with the issue. He hoped to finalize all the indicators and baselines, yet raised his concern from the lack of accurate data on some indicators. In particular, Mr. Kateb mentioned indicators such human smuggling, money laundry, violence again women and the agencies and individuals who are involved in bribery and corruption. With regards to level of children smuggling, Mr. Kateb said that Ministry of Interior has no data on the issue as well. In addition, he argued that as most of Afghan families do not take national ID card for their children who are below 7 years old. Hence, according to him, it gets difficult for the ministry to know about precise number of Children in Afghanistan and asked MoPH to provide such information by registration of births in the country, which was approved by the representative of MoPH. At the end, Mr. Rahimi thanked Mr. Kateb for the briefing and asked WG-1 members to set a meeting and select their authorized member for dealing with budgetary process.

Mr. Moqar Hashimi, Planning and Policy Director at the MoEc reported activities of the WG 2. Based on his report, almost all of targets, indicators and baselines of WG2 have been finalized and assured that with next few days the WG will start working on nationalization of indicators and finalization of their working plan. Mr. Rahimi congratulated the achievement of WG-2 and asked representative of WG-3 to deliver Group's report.

Mrs. Spozhmai Wardak, deputy of Minister of Planning and policy of Women Affairs briefed the audiences about the activities of WG-3. She said that the Group has conducted 6 meetings so far with cooperation of the SDGs Coordination Unit and MoEc. Through the meetings, they managed to finalize almost all of the Group's related targets, indicators and baselines. Nonetheless, she stated that due to lack of baselines for indicators belongs to Ministry of and Culture and Information, the Group could not full finalize their indicators and baselines. On the matter of statistics about violence against women, she said that the Ministry does not have a nationwide figures and facts about the issue and need to conduct a national survey to get such information. However, yet it is not clear which organization- ministry economy, women affairs or CSO- can carry out such survey. In the next part of her speech, Mrs. Spozhmai reported that the Group's working plan has already been distributed to its members and will be finalized in due course. She further added that the WG-3 has requested MoEc to conduct an Awareness

Workshop on SDGs for the Group Members and MoF to take part in the meeting of the Group and help the group in budgetary process of SDG.

Mr. Mohammad Nabi Surosh, General Director of Planning and Policy of MoEc reported the activities of the WG4. Based on his report, the WG-4 through conduction of six meetings, has managed to finalize 68 targets, 84 indicators and drew baselines for all of the selected indicators. He also reported that the Group will finalize its working plan with support of MoEC, MoF and Public works in due course.

After the report of WG-4, the honorable Abdul Rahman Shekib, chief economic and development Advisor to the Office of Chief Executive of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, spoke about the Working Plan. He stated that there is a need to start working on nationalization the SGDs and preparation of an easy-understandable working plan. He further added that the working plan of all WGs ought to be prepared and presented to the Committee in order to combine them for preparation of a working plan for the Executive committee. Mr. Shekib also emphasized that the working plan should encompass simple mechanism for nationalization, budgeting and alignment of SDGs with other national programs that are based on a clear timeline. Mr. Shekib also suggested that some SDGs related terms used by MoEc are complicated and needs to be standardized so that get understandable for other involving agencies.

With regards to the leadership of SDG Agenda, honorable, Arsalayee said that as seems, currently, MoEc is leading the Agenda, however, for decent coordination, it would be better to shift the leadership into SDGs Coordination Unit.

Mr. Gonzalo Serrano, head the EU SDGs team in Afghanistan, who participated for the first time in the meeting, vowed full support of EU for implementation of SDG in Afghanistan. He stated that it would be good to have an integrated policy for alignment SDGs with other national programs like ANPDF and NPP and said that the EU is ready to support Afghan government in this regard. Mr. Gonzalo also stated that the EU will supports CSO to launch survey program in order to assess the status of hunger as well as in population census.

In the next phase of the meeting, Mr. Suroosh delivered a presentation regarding to public awareness programs and pointed out to a number of problem in nationalization process consisting in:

1. SDGs ought to be discussed in the Cabinet along with other prioritized national programs at the leading economic and financial level.
2. The 379 national budget already been finalized. Hence, it a source of concern about possibility of implementing the SDG.
3. Participation Level of ministries representatives in the WGs meetings are low. Plus, they cannot contribute in the process very effectively.

In response to the above-mentioned issues, Honorable Arsalayee suggested to document these types problems along with probable solutions in a proposal form submit to the Council of ministers so that seek a solution for them in council's meetings. He also asked for clarification about responsible party for public awareness program. He said" it should be clarified that only MoEc is responsible and/ or each agency develop its own awareness program."

In the following part of the meeting, honorable Shekib considered nationalization process of SDGs as a challenging task. He also said that despite establishment the Executive Committee for SDGs within the body of government, it is difficult not to see SDGs in government's developmental programs. He once again highlighted the need for a simple working plan and asked the final draft of such Plan should be presented in the next meeting of the Committee.

Related to this issue, the head of EU SDG team for Afghanistan said that not including SDGs costs into the current year's national budget, would have negative impact on EU planning and programs on SDGs in Afghanistan. He also suggested that in addition to the governmental institutions, PriSec and civil Society institutions be involved into the public awareness programs.

Mr. Mirwis Ahmadzai, representative of MoF said that there is a need to align SDGs with other national frameworks such as ANPD, NPP and SMAF. Considering importance of the alignment process, he suggested to raise the issue at the highest level meetings of the government where both the President and Chief Executive of the country are present so that take a decisive action.

On the issue of low level presence in the meeting, honorable Arsalayee, directed the Secretariat to seek for the root causes of the problem and report it to the Council of ministers and list those who were absent. He also pointed that participation of the members or alternate in the meeting as mandatory, not optional.

Mr. Rahimullam Samander, CEO of Afghanistan Chamber of Industrial and Mines (ACIM) said it seems that ACIM activities have noticeable link and involvement with almost all of SDGs indicators, thus it would give more sense for ACIM to become a member of working groups, in particular, WG 2 and WG4, which was welcomed by honorable Rahimi.

Mr. Hamayoon, General Director of Planning and Policy of Ministry of Urban development and Housing (MUDH) said that MoF, donors and international community should have strong commitment for implementation of SDGs in Afghanistan.

At the last moments of the meeting, honorable Rahimi thanked the head of the EU SDG team for Afghanistan for his participation and declaration of EU support of SDGs in Afghanistan and expressed the major action points of the meeting as follow:

Actions to be taken

- 1- Targets and indicators should be finalized as soon as possible and reported to the Executive Committee;
- 2- A progress report of the WGs activities including those of challenges and solutions be prepared by the secretariat and shared with the Council of Ministers;
- 3- WGs ought to finalize their action plans and present them to the Executive Committee on SDGs;
- 4- All the party members list their policies, projects and programs and share them with Coordination Unit on SDGs;
- 5- The Public Awareness Package prepared by the MoEc distributed to the all WG members;
- 6- Pave the way for the Afghanistan Chamber of Industrial and Mines (ACIM) to get membership of the WG2 and WG4;
- 7- Next meeting of the Executive Committee should not be coincided with meeting of other units of Coordination Unit;

- 8- MoEc ought to work in coordination with the Secretariat (Coordination Unit).
- 9- Central Statistics Organization shall activity get involved in the meetings of WGs.

Nasrullah Arsalayee,
Director General of Council of Ministers

Mohamad Muhammad Ismail Rahimi,
Deputy Minister planning and policy at the Ministry of Economy,

Douglas Armaur,
Head of Governance Unit of UNDP in Afghanistan