



Office of the Chief Executive
Executive Committee on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
SDGs Coordination Unit
The Executive Committee on SDGs meeting Minutes
Meeting #: 9
Date: 2/ Jan /2018

NO	Meeting Agenda	Duration
1	Opening remarks by honorable co-chairs and adoption of minutes of the previous meeting	10 Minutes
2	Presentation on final draft of working groups action plan by coordination unit.	20 Minutes
3	Progress update by Working Groups (I, II, III and IV) on the A-SDGs targets and baselines	15 Minutes
4	Presentation on Women Empowerment under the protection of SDGs Conference by MoWA	10 Minutes
5	AOB	15 Minutes

The 9th meeting of the Executive Committee on SDGs took place at 10:00 am, Tuesday, 2nd January, 2018, at Sapidar Palace, Kabul, Afghanistan. It was Co-Chaired by H.E. Mr. Mustafa Mastoor, Minister of Economy and the honorable Nasrullah Arsalai, Director General of Council of Ministers. Representatives from the Governmental entities, CSOs and Private Sector had also participated in the meeting.

Opening the session, Minister Mastoor, welcomed the board participation and conveyed his gladness for the accomplishment of the WGs in finalization of their targets and indicators. The honorable Arsalai, while appreciating the efforts of WGs, noted that still there are a number of issues hinder the process and asked to be dealt with. He said that the meeting hall does not have enough space which from time to time, demotivate the committee members attending the meetings. The low level participation of the WGs members has halted finalization of targets and indicators. Mr. Arsalayee also asked the Central Statistics Organization to actively attend the Committee's and groups' meeting and support finalization of the indicators and baselines. Talking on the next steps of the work, Mr. Arsalayee said: The targets and indicators are at the edge of finalization, as soon as they get finalized, the Committee will share them with the SCO and Ministry of Women Affairs, CSOs and international stakeholders for their final review.

Reminding the poor engagement of UNDP on SDG program in Afghanistan, H.E Mastoor supposed that the organization does not seem very interested to SDGs implementation in Afghanistan, whereas, it plays crucial role in this regard in other countries. Going into detail, he said: “absence of UNDP representative in the Committee’s meeting is a clear instance of the issue. We know that foreign staffs of the UNDP have left Afghanistan for the New Year holidays. Yet, they could introduce one of their national staffs for the meeting.” H.E Mastoor, also raised the issue of Central Statistics Organization (SCO)’s poor involvement in the meetings and finalization of the baselines. He asked to discuss the issue with the co-chair members of WGs. The introductory remarks closed with the brief review and acceptance of the previous meeting minutes.

As a reaction to the critics on Central Statistics Organization, Mr. Hasebullah, Deputy of the Agency wanted to know in detail about the poor contribution of Central Statistics Organization in the process so that tackle with the shortcomings of his organization. In response, Minister Mastoor underlined a high expectation from Central Statistics Organization at current state of work on SDGs and suggested the organization to plays greater role.

Thereafter, Minister Mastoor requested the meeting members, in charge of briefing the meeting agendas, to brief the audience about the agenda items. Talking on the first point of the agenda, Mr. Abdul Ahad Mohammadi, a Technical Advisor to the Coordination Unit on SDG, presented summary of the “Action plan” recently developed for all the WGs. He said that the Coordination Unit with support of MoEc has developed an easy-understanding- “Action plan” for all the WGs for the first three months of the current year. Commenting on the content of the Action plan, Mr. Ahmad Khan Nayeem, Deputy Minister of Policy and Planning of MoPh suggested to share the draft with the members of the WGs for their review and consultation regarding the proposed timeline and implementation procedures of each element. H.E. Mr. Mastoor asked for further clarification upon the Action Plan. In particular, he wanted to know if the Action plan is only prepared for the Executive Committee on SDGs or all WGs. H.E. Mr. Mastoor also said that some parts of the plan seem ambiguous and need explanation. He also suggested to include a “Mapping Plan” in the action plan to identify all the relevant national developmental programs to those of SDGs. In response Mr. Mohammadi stated that the Plan is a preliminary draft for both. Each WG can bring amendment to it based on their own possibilities and conditions. The Honorable Abdul Rahman Shekib, Senior Economic and Development Advisor to the Office of Chief Executive of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan also pointed that the last part of the action plan is general and need to be specified. Mr. Ahmad Khan Nayeem, commented to prioritize the indicators in the action plan. However, H.E. Mr. Minster stated that all the selected indicators are equally important, yet, the committee members can decide on the matter, whether to prioritize or not. Mr. Abdul Wali Modaqiq also shared his feedbacks about the Action plan. He suggested each WG to develop its action plan and then, integrate them all, to prepare joint action plan for all WGs.

Briefing the activities of Working Group-1, Mr. Reza Kateb, General Director of Policy and Planning of MoI, highlighted the lack of data for some indicators related to the WG-1. In particular, he said that the MoI does not have precise information indicators associated with violence against women and prisoners. One of the reasons of lack of such data according to him is that most of the violence victims register their cases to different organizations. Thus, attempting to compile the figures on the topic from different organizations has the risk of overlapping and duplication. On the matter of responsible institution for indicators, he said that yet, it is not very clear which indicators and targets belongs to which organization. Therefore, there is a need to identify the issue so that the members start preparing budget and cost estimation for their respected indicators and targets. Giving solution to the duplication concern, Mr. Nahed Ulfi, Director of Planning and Policy of MoWa reported that the Ministry of Women Affairs plans to develop a nationwide “Database” with aim to

register all cases of violence against women in the country. H.E Mr. Mastoor asked the Committee members, including Coordination Unit on SDGs and MoEc to jointly work together to find solution for the above-mentioned issues.

In the subsequent phase of the meeting, Mr. Mohammad Nabi Soroush, General Director of Policy and monitoring of MoEc presented the recent activities of MoEc about SDGs. In his presentation, he reported about the new changes and modifications in nationalization process of SDGs agenda, the WGs meetings and unilateral actions of MoEc as a leading agency for implementation of SDGs in Afghanistan. He further stated that the process is in the state of completion, nonetheless, lack of accurate facts and figures for some indicators and targets halt its full accomplishment. On the matter of data, Mr. Moahed urged the member parties to get help from the Central Statistics Organization for finalization of their respective baselines. He then, requested all members of the Group to review the selected baselines and indicators. H.E. Mr. Mustafa Mastoor directed the Secretariat of SDG and MoEc to follow the issues and find solution them.

Mr. Ahmad Jan Nayeem also raised the need for further review of the nationalized indicators and baselines. He stated that some of the selected indicators and baselines still have problem and some of them even cannot be considered as indicator. Referring to a particular case, Mr. Ahmad Jan Nayeem pointed that MoPh does not have data about level of open defecation, but supposed that the data might be available in MRRD, because MRRD implements projects related to the matter across the country. Mr. Mohammad Hassan Sepahi, head of National Small-scale Entrepreneurs, suggested the Committee to give more space for such entrepreneurs' involvement in SDGs program. According to him, further involvement of the entrepreneurs will be helpful for Central Statistics Organization in provision of accurate data. Mr. Raheemullah Samandar, CEO of Afghanistan Chamber of Mines and Industries, proposed similar suggestion and asked the Committee to support the Chamber play further role in implementation of SDGs in the country. The increased involvement of the chamber according to his statement, can help collect statistics about the employment status in the field of industry and mining in the country.

Following the discussion, Minister Mastoor, directed the board members to establish a "Sub-Committee" with membership of co-chairs of the WGs to review and modify all the developed documents on SDGs in Afghanistan. He also suggested to involve the CSOs and small-scale entrepreneurs in tackling the challenges ahead of SDGs implementation in the country.

With regards to the provision of clean and safe water (a key target of SDGs), Mr. Essa Qudrat, an Advisor to MRRD, stated that fulfilling such task is beyond the capacity of MRRD and need a joint effort of all involving agencies including the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, Municipalities, etc. He also had the same suggestion on the issue of open defecation. To cover the discussion, honorable Arsalai suggested all WGs to share their suggestion on the raised issues in the next meeting of the Committee.

To follow the meeting agenda, Mrs. Naheed Ulfi, Director of Planning and Policy of MoWA delivered her presentation about the 2-days-workshop, the Ministry had conducted with aim to contribute in women empowerment in light of SDGs program and raise women awareness about it in the country, particularly at the provincial and local level. Mrs, Sahar Hamdard, director of Policy and Planning from the Kabul Municipality, applauding the initiative of MoWA, said that such efforts by the ministry pave the way for women to effectively contribute in attainment of SDGs in Afghanistan. Appreciating the initiative of MoWA, H.E. Minister of Economy urged other member parties to initiate similar programs.

In the closing remarks, H.E. Mr. Mustafa Mastoor, once more thanked WGs, the Secretariat and MoEc for their tireless efforts in nationalization process of SDG and further arrangements for realization of the agenda in the country.

Summary of Decisions and Next Steps:

1. The Secretariat to prepare “Action plan” for each WG and share it with the Committee;
2. MoPH to brief the Committee members on their good experience of attending international conference had been held in Japan;
3. MoEc to prepare “Strategic plan” highlighting the output of activities and realization status of SDGs in the country;
4. The Co-chair members of WGs to establish a sub-committee to tackle the SDGs related contradictions and issues. The committee arrange meetings for this end and report the meetings result to the Committee;
5. UNDP be asked to regularly attend in the meetings of the Committee;
6. The next meeting of the Executive Committee on SDGs will be held on January 16 at 10:00 am, at the same venue.

Mustafa Mastoor,
Minister of Economy of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Nasrullah Arsalai,
Director General of Council of Ministers of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan