



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

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Meeting No</b>	<b>Date</b>
Meeting Minutes	10:00 am	Sapidar Palace	5	October 17, 2017

**Agenda:**

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

The fifth meeting of the Executive Committee on SDG was convened on 17 October 2017 at the Sapidar Palace, Kabul. The meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Mustafa Mastoor, Acting Minister of Economy of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, The Honorable, Nasrallah Arsalayee, General Director of Council of Ministers of the Office of Chief Executive of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Mr. Jocelyn Mason, UNDP representative in Kabul and was attended by representatives of the Committee members.

**Introductory remarks:**

- H.E. Mustafa Mastoor, Acting Minister of Economy of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, welcomed members of the Executive Committee on SDG to the fifth meeting.
- The Co-chairs adopted the minutes of the previous meeting.
- In welcoming members, Honorable, Nasrallah Arsalayee, General Director of Council of Ministers of the Office of Chief Executive of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, pointed to the decision made in the previous regarding inclusion of FAO as a member of two working groups and said the matter is not mentioned in the minutes the fourth meeting.
- Following the remarks by Mr. Arsalayee, Jocelyn Mason, UNDP representative, welcomed the participants and expressed his regrets for the UNDP failure to deliver presentation that was supposed presented in the previous meeting. He promised to deliver the presentation in the next meeting. In his remarks, he also stated that UNDP is present in the executive committee on SDG and there is no need to include other branches of the UN in the Committee. With regards to FAO case, he agreed with the agency membership of the working groups, but disagreed with the FAO membership into the Executive Committee on SDG. H.E Mostafa Mastoor specified that FAO become a member of Working Group 2 and 4.
- Following the remarks of the UNDP representative, H.E Mostafa Mastoor, expressed his regrets for the failure of Working Groups, except 4, in conducting the first meeting, despite their promise to do so. In response, MoJ representative, who is a co-chair member of Working Group 1, promised to conduct the group's meeting on 18 October, which was supported by representatives of MoI and IDLG, that are also co-chair member of the Working Group. Mr. Mujib Alla Sulaimankhil, head of Plan and Policy directorate of MAIL reiterated that the working group 2 will conduct its first meeting

on 19 October. With regards to conduction of Working Groups meeting, the deputy minister of ministry of women affairs, Mrs. Spozhmai Wardak, expressed that due to poor coordination among the co-chairs of the group, they failed to conduct the meeting on time, but promised to convene the meeting in due course.

### **Perspectives of Members on the Committee's current activities and future plans**

- In the further phase of the meeting, several members highlighted their views on the issues raised in introductory parts as well as new approaches about the future activities of the committee and working groups. H.E Mostafa Mastoor again clarified that it is duty of Secretariat of the committee to coordinate the meetings of the Executive Committee on SDGs. As an additional statement, he proposed to include the MoPh as co-chair member of the Working Group 3, which was endorsed by the ministry's representative in the meeting.
- Subsequently, Mr. Mohammad Esmayel Rahimi, deputy minister of policy and planning, from the ministry of economy, delivered his presentation on inclusion and alignment of SDG with national programs. Specifically, he shed lights on the following subjects:
  - Development of a mechanism for the SDG alignment with the national programs and need for the formation of specific working group to do the task;
  - Further elaboration of on nature and activities of Technical Working Groups;
  - Need for arrangement of training programs for the member of Technical Working Groups;
  - Revision of the current developmental programs and projects and the ways to coordinate NPP and develop monitoring and reporting mechanism.

### **Nationalization and Alignment of SDG with National Programs**

- A number of the meeting participants raised the issue of nationalization and alignment of SDG agenda. In this respect, H.E Mostafa Mastoor proposed to the ministries of economy and finance to jointly work for identification of differences between SDG and ANPDF so that pave the way for further steps in nationalization of SDG. Mr. Jocelyn Mason, from UNDP proposed that all working groups thoroughly work to highlight the differences between the above-mentioned programs and ways to align the programs with one another.
- Speaking the challenges of such alignment, Mr. Sajid Taqwa, head of Monitoring and reporting directorate of MoJ stated that the ministry already spent a year to finalize the national budget, hence, it would be very difficult to comprise SDG on the 2018 national budget. He also expressed that only two years left from ANPDF, while the Afghan government even has failed to conveniently fund the implementation of NPP. In response, H.E Mostafa Mastoor said that ANPDF is an ongoing project and ought to be implemented. But, SDG also need to be included in the budget and all the ministry should attempt to do the work.
- Referring to the alignment and nationalization of SDG, Mr. Rahimi stated that A-SDGs to be prepared because ANPDF does not encompasses clear indicators. He went further and said in the next year budget SDG be included. In order to effectively achieve these works, he suggested for improvement organizational capacity of relevant institutions in Afghanistan.

### **Briefing the members from the Working Group-4 meeting**

- Following the meeting discussion, Mr. Mohammad Allah Rahmdil, poverty analysis officer at the SDG Secretariat of the ministry of Economy briefed the meeting members from the first meeting of the working Group 4. The core discussion points of the meeting were as follow:
  - Assessment of the current status of SDG in Afghanistan;
  - Review of the drafted ToR of the working Groups;

- Discussion on identification of SDG indicators and preparation of accurate baselines;
- Way forward.

The meeting concluded with the following actions to be considered:

- Conduction of the group meeting twice a month;
- Suggestion for the deputy ministers as a prime and general directors as an alternate representative for the meeting.
- Representatives from the office of the President and the Chief Executive of the Islamic republic of Afghanistan as well as international agencies become the group member.
- Preparation of The Working Group ToR by the ministry of economy and sharing it with the Executive Committee on SDG for the approval.
- Review of the baselines and indicators.

#### **Additional notes:**

- Many participants highlighted that due to dense official responsibilities of the deputy ministers in their respected ministries, they might not be able to regularly attend the working Groups meetings. Hence, this suggestion was raised that instead of deputy ministers, the general directors of the ministries attend the working Groups meetings.
- The deputy minister from the ministry of women Affairs stated that gender issues ought to be considered in activities and planning of all working groups.
- H.E Mustafa Mastoor updated the members that the ToR for all working groups are drafted by the Executive Committee. Thus there is a need to start preparing the Baselines. He further stated to complete the following task:
  - Finalization of indicators and targets till the end of November 2017,
  - Introduction of the prime and alternate members in the Executive Committee on SDG;
  - Inclusion of ministry of women affairs as a member of all working groups;
  - Co-chairs ought to be deputy ministers and ordinary members the general directors.

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

1. The meeting was not properly convened. The secretariat ought to be more active.
2. UNDP introduce an extra Officer to merely get involved on SDG
3. Attendants should attend the meeting on time.
4. all working groups should convene at least two meetings prior to the conduction of the Committees next meeting,
5. Indicators and baselines should be completed till the end of November 2017.
6. UNDP deliver its presentation at the next meeting of the Executive Committee on SDG;
7. MoPH become a co-chair member of the working Group 3
8. Establish a technical committee to comprise the goals and indicators of SGDs into national programs. Ministry of economy is responsible to establish the committee
9. The next meeting will be held at 10:00 Am, on October 31, at the same venue