



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

Final Draft approved by the council of Ministers

Meeting Minutes- 6th meeting

Minutes of the fifth EC on SDG Meeting

The fifth meeting of the Executive Committee on SDG was convened at 10:00 Am on 7 November 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. Amin Allah Hamidi, UNDP representative in Kabul and was attended by representatives of the Committee members.

At the onset of the meeting, H.E Mustafa Mastoor, Activing Minister of Economy of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan welcomed the participants. He also admired and appreciated the Executive Committee on SDGs and the working Groups tireless efforts for the proper and timely conduction of scheduled meetings. In his subsequent remarks, H.E Mustafa Mastoor added” Gender issue is an important element of SDG Agenda. Thus, there is a need to provide more space for the Ministry of Women affairs to play greater role in all the Working Groups.” Speaking on the prime and alternate representatives of the working groups members, H.E Mostafa said: “I expect that list of both prime and alternative representatives already finalized. However, once again it worth reiterating that in the working groups meeting, the prime member ought to be at the level of deputy ministers and alternative, as general director of plan and policy directorates.

The meeting went ahead with the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting of the committee. Following the approval of the meeting minutes, The Honorable, Nasrallah Arsalayee, General Director of Council of Ministers of the Office of Chief Executive of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan briefed the meeting board about recently held meeting of the co-chairs of the Executive Committee on SDG. Reporting on the major discussion of the meeting, he said that all the working groups regularly work on their assignments and they enjoy form reasonable progress in their activities. Yet, there are some issues that need further attention:

First: If the member of co-chairs who participate in the meeting are not high level officials of the party, we might not get a good result. Second: Prior attending the meetings, members ought to well prepare for the meeting and get necessary information on the program. Third: Baselines and indicators be finalized. Fourth: Each member of the groups prepares sub-committee on SDGs. He further commented that the ministries of MAIL and Women Affairs have arranged an awareness programs on SGDs for their key staff which have had a decent result.

The meeting continued with the remarks of representatives of UNDP, Mrs. Jocelyn Mason. In her opening remarks, she expressed her apologies for the absence of Mr. Aminullah Hamidi, head UNDP's SGDs programs in Afghanistan in the meeting. In her next remarks, she reaffirmed the strong commitment and support of UNDP for well implementation of SDG in Afghanistan.

In welcoming the member board of the meeting, Mr. Sayed Mohammad Hashimi, deputy minister of MoJ, updated the participants on the first and second meetings of Working Group-1 and announced that the group's third meeting will be conducted in due course with focus on finalization of Working Group-1 ToR and further work on its Action Plan. He also rejoiced from regular attendance of the group's members in the meeting. Speaking on the challenges of working on the action plan, he said that the action plan ought to be finalized till the end of November 2017, but raised concern about lack of accurate data and suggested the Committee to deal with the issue.

Following remarks by the deputy minister of MoJ, Mrs. Spozhmai Wardak, deputy minister on policy and planning of the Ministry of Women Affairs, called upon consideration of gender issues in all the targets and indicators. She also requested the working groups to share the final version of their selected

indicators and targets with the Ministry of women affairs so that the Ministry get sure from consideration of gender issue in all targets and indicators.

Subsequently, Mr. Hasiballah Moaheed, administrative deputy of CSO suggested the sectorial ministries to be well aware of indicators of SDGs that they are involved with and select the indicators which are measureable and implementable in the country.

Furthermore, Mr. Mohammad Esa Qudraq, an advisor to MRRD, informed the meeting board on major points discussed in the meetings of the working group-2. He announced that Working Group-2 perform their duties in a proper and coordinated manner. The group already conducted two meetings. Nonetheless, he pointed that the level of participations in the group's meeting were not adequate. In addition, to accomplish working group-2 tasks properly, he suggested all the group member to attend the meeting with well preparation and knowledge about their activities and tasks. Pointing to further activities of working group-2, Mr. Sulaiman Khil delivered a presentation about the activities of working group-2. He raised the issue of data and reported that they officially requested from the CSO to help them get the necessary data. Mr. Suleiman also stated about the importance of gender in SDG agenda and shared their plan with regards to conduction of numerous workshops and seminars at the provincial and district level with aim to increase awareness of public about the subject.

In the next step of the meeting, H.E Mustafa Mastoor, asked the Ministries of Finance, Economy and Secretariat of the Executive committee on SGD to develop a reporting, M&E, and implementation format for SGD goals. He also directed the Ministry of Economy and the Secretariat to raise their questions, remarks and suggestions with regard to development of such format in the Executive committee meetings so that necessary actions be taken to deal with them.

The honorable Abdul Rahman Shikeb, Senior Economic Advisor to the Chief Executive of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, said: "Rising public awareness on SDGs can be an important step in meeting SDG. Thus, there is a need to turn SGD into a national discourse". He further added that establishment of sub-committees by Ministries of MAIL and Public health can help us meet this goal. With regards to nationalization of SGD, Honorable Abdul Rahman Shikeb stated that the global goals, targets and indicator in SDG agenda are propositional in nature, while every country including Afghanistan can adjust them based on their national circumstances. In his talks, Mr. Shikeb reiterated the crucial role of CSO in provision of accurate data for setting the basslines.

Based on the meeting agenda, a number of the Working Group-3 members, including Mrs. Spozhmai Wardak, deputy minister of Policy and Planning of Ministry of Women Affairs updated the participants from the group's held meetings. In this respect, Mrs. Spozhmai, pointed out to the agreements made in the Groups meetings consisting in: 1. Members agreed that the Load of work of the Working Group-3 is huge. 1. Each member establish a sub-committee of SDG and technical committee. 3. Ministry of economy share the surveys and indicators. 4. All materials related to SGD be translated into one of the formal languages of Afghanistan. 5. Indicators ought to be matched and compared with ANPDF. 6. CSO provide data to the member of the working group. In her final remarks, she stated that indicators related to the working group-3 have been already reviewed and its action plan is drafted. But the work going on to finalize ToR of the group. As final suggestion, Mrs. Spozhmai recommended to split the working group-3 into two separate groups. In response, H.E Minister of Economy said that it is better for the working group-3 to continue based on its current organizational formation. But to solve group's challenge, it gives more sense to increase its staff.

In the next phase of the meeting, Mr. Nabi Soroush, general director of Policy and Planning directorate of the Ministry of Economy updated about the meeting of working group-4. He stated that in the group's meetings, the members reviewed the indicators. Pointing to the shortage of the group's meetings, he regretted that some members did not attend the meeting and asked the committee to put pressure on the members introduce their authorized representatives in the meetings.

Discussion on nationalization of SDG, Mr. Hassan Sepahi, head of Afghan National Entrepreneurs, stated that to eradicate poverty, targeting to increase daily income of individual up to 9.1\$ at the end of SDG agenda is not sufficient. He also criticized the SDG agenda on eradication of poverty and argued that it is not feasible to meet the goal on eradication of poverty. Addressed the importance of improvement of micro industries, he argued that the industries can play great part in alleviation of poverty and in return, establishment of mechanism for providing small-scale loan for the small-scale entrepreneurs can lead to advancement of such industries.

Another part of the meeting dedicated to presentation prepared by UNDP on SDG Agenda. Ms. Claire Van Loveren, delivered the presentation. In the presentation, she elaborated the successful experience of a number of countries in implementation and nationalization of SDGs. H.E Mostafa Mastoor, thanked

UNDP for delivering such useful presentation. He once again restated that further efforts needed on development of public awareness mechanism.

Actions to be taken:

1. Public awareness is crucial in achieving SDGs. Therefore, all the working groups shall develop and present a decent program in this regard;
2. All Working Groups are obliged to finalize their ToR and Action Plans;
3. Attendance of CSO, Ministries of Economy and Women Affairs in the meetings of all working groups is essential;
4. The Secretariat of the Executive Committee on SDG is responsible to provide technical support for all working groups and prepare an action plan for dealing the challenges of the Groups;
5. Members of the Working Groups ought to regularly attend the meetings with full preparation;
6. Each sub-committee is responsible to prepare and finalize the indicators and basslines till the end of November so that actual work be started at the beginning of December.
7. Ministry of Economy with coordination of Ministry of finance and the Secretariat of the Executive Committee, is responsible to develop a format for implementation of SDG agenda including alignment and integration of its goal, and cost estimation and present it to the Executive Committee on SDGs.
8. Ministry of Economy and UNDP jointly work to prepare sets of presentations with focus on explaining the successful experiences of other countries in implementation of SDG Agenda and deliver it for all the Working Groups.
9. The next meeting will be held in the same venue on 14 November 2017.