

NATIONALIZATION OF THE SDGS – THE PROCESS SO FAR

Following the adoption of the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Agenda in 2015, the Administration of Georgia (AoG) took leadership, tasking itself with coordinating, monitoring and implementing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Georgia has undertaken active measures to adjust the SDG targets and indicators according to local conditions, challenges and opportunities in the country. As a result of extensive interagency consultations led by the AoG, it has prioritized 17 (out of 17) Global Goals, 98 (out of 169) global targets and 204 (out of 244) global indicators. An approach to tailor additional global SDG indicators to both national and local contexts is underway, while a considerable effort has already been made to incorporate SDG targets into existing and prospective National Strategies and Action Plans.

The AoG has particularly made significant efforts to closely monitor and successfully implement SDG 16 on Peace, Justice and the Continued Development of Strong Institutions in Georgia. From November 2016 to July 2017, Georgia participated alongside El Salvador, Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa, Tunisia and Uruguay in a global pilot project on inclusive processes and methodologies for monitoring SDG 16. It is in this context that Georgia continues to make strides towards achieving the successful implementation of all SDGs, while also recognizing that there are still considerable challenges for the future.

In its continued effort to streamline the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Agenda, the AoG has engaged with various formalized institutional coordination mechanisms. Recognizing that successful implementation depends on alignment with the highest level of political leadership, a Sustainable Development Goals Council was established. The core function of the Council is to oversee and closely monitor the continued implementation of SDGs in Georgia. In addition, four thematic SDG working groups (Democratic Governance, Social Inclusion, Economic Development, and Sustainable Energy & Environment Protection) have been created, which has helped deepen stakeholder engagement and ensure a more inclusive participation of civil society organizations. As part of a continuous effort by the AoG to work together to streamline the implementation of SDGs in Georgia, a series of consultations took place in 2018 to enhance the effectiveness of the Council through integrating the SDGs into the national policy planning system, and by building capacity in data collection and monitoring & evaluation.

MONITORING SDGs

The Electronic Management System (EMS) to be launched in July 2018, will aid the AoG in coordinating and monitoring SDG implementation and will enhance intergovernmental coordination in the process through a web-based monitoring system.

The AoG recognizes that gaps in the baseline data for certain indicators and targets persist. A team of experts is engaged to guide the relevant public institutions of the working groups in refining the SDG matrix and reducing the gaps between global and national indicators/targets. By October 2018, an updated matrix will be ready for endorsement. Additionally, the AoG initiated and will continue its dialogue with academia, civil society organizations and the private sector to increase public awareness, to facilitate knowledge-sharing, and to promote engagement of the educational institutions in the SDG data collection and monitoring processes.

The GoG will pursue to support local audiences in linking goals to their concerns as it continues to review the progress in implementing the SDGs with the engagement of the private sector and civil society organizations. It is for these reasons that in 2016, introductory meetings were held a series of meeting throughout of Georgia with the aim to raise awareness of the roles of local governments, the private sector, and civil society on the implementation of the SDGs.

NEXT STEPS

Continued research is needed to gather and develop supplementary data that could be relevant for the contextualization of all SDGs in Georgia and this will depend on the continued inclusion and engagement of civil society organizations and other stakeholders. As for the next steps, it is important for the thematic working groups set up to help the AoG capture specific development needs to strengthen their national statistical capacities and data collection. Finally, the Government of Georgia will continue to refine and strengthen the data collection and monitoring capacities of civil servants to track the progress of SDG implementation in Georgia, aiming for the development of a first Progress Report, and actively working towards ending poverty, guaranteeing sustainable development and environment protection, and ensuring social inclusion and prosperity.