

## **KEY MESSAGES**

### **on the Voluntary National Review (VNR) on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Kyrgyz Republic**

#### **Introduction**

The Kyrgyz Republic is committed to implementing the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are incorporated into public policy and are reflected in the National Development Strategy (2018-2040), and the "Unity. Trust. Creation" Program (2018-2022), which are based on a human-centered approach. The National Development Strategy 2040's concept aims to ensure human development and decent quality of life through sustainable economic growth. The Kyrgyz Republic adheres to the global commitment to "leave no one behind," with a particular emphasis on and prioritization of the most vulnerable social groups.

The VNR preparation process has been multilateral and cross-sectoral and has been based on partnership with all relevant stakeholders. The VNR reflects on the country's fundamental and practical approaches to achieving the SDGs, challenges and successes, as well as the areas where further work is required. The first VNR of the Kyrgyz Republic covers 16 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 14 is not relevant for Kyrgyzstan). The review covered the situation related to the coronavirus infection (COVID 19), and the information on measures taken by the country to combat the pandemic is included in the report.

#### **Implementation of the commitment to "leave no one behind"**

The implementation of this commitment in the Kyrgyz Republic implies the need for prioritization to improve the quality of living and the realization of the fundamental rights of the social groups that are most excluded from the development process. At that, it is taken into account that the Kyrgyz Republic faces systematic problems and a lack of resources for the implementation of key areas of sustainable human development.

Using a multidimensional approach to the assessment has demonstrated the complexity of this goal - to "leave no one behind" - against the background of a broad range of identified risks and vulnerabilities. The evaluation process included thematic consultations with government agencies, civil society organizations and development partners. The work focused on the interconnectedness of the key elements: discrimination, geographical location, socio-economic status and indicators of life and death, as well as vulnerability.

The accomplished work and the methodology that was used to monitor the progress of achievement of the SDGs and to evaluate the "leave no one behind" approach

have allowed going beyond national average indicators and identifying the variety of specific situations in the most vulnerable groups, interconnected and key conditions of discrimination, inequality and isolation, and risks of further impoverishment.

## **Achievements**

For a successful implementation of the SDGs by 2030, Kyrgyzstan has set a key priority as focusing national policies on people. For this goal, national plans are being implemented to ensure legal and judicial protection of human and civil rights and freedoms, reduce inequality, eradicate poverty, mitigate the consequences of climate change, reduce disaster risk, invest in human development, build skills and knowledge for all social groups, create jobs and support healthy lifestyle, and promote gender equality.

The country has virtually eliminated absolute poverty. General education is free, accessible and compulsory. Kyrgyzstan was among first countries in the world to completely solve the problem of statelessness. This applies to individuals and society as a whole, and allows the comprehensive and transformative nature of the SDGs to ensure wider political participation, economic empowerment and social development of all groups of society.

The National Development Strategy 2040 provides opportunities for sustainable economic and social development, including the development of digitalization, entrepreneurship, the introduction of innovative and environmentally friendly technologies for present and future generations. In 2019, the Kyrgyz Republic took a leading position in the group and segment of Central Asian countries with an average income/below-average income, in terms of the progress of implementation of the SDGs based on the assessment of six interdependent transformations.

Since the beginning of the SDGs implementation, the Kyrgyz Republic has ratified a number of important international agreements, including the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which provide additional opportunities to accelerate the country's progress towards the SDGs.

## **Challenges**

Despite these achievements, the level of national multidimensional poverty is quite high and is a source of great concern.

The relatively stable economic growth rate, on average 5.3%, is insufficient to ensure a significant increase in the general welfare of the population. The still weak introduction of innovations and underdeveloped infrastructure complicate the

country's economic development and reduce the possibility of equalizing the living standards of the population both in urban and in rural areas. Employment issues and the issues of increasing labor productivity remain relevant.

## **Conclusion**

The Kyrgyz Republic will continue proactive work aimed at achieving the SDGs, creation of an enabling environment for human development, unlocking the potential of everyone and ensuring well-being of individuals through protecting their health, freedom, rights, more comprehensive gender equality, employment and stable income.

The Kyrgyz Republic will actively pursue reforms aimed at creating a competitive digital economy by creating attractive conditions for entrepreneurs and investors, as well as application of innovative and environmentally friendly technologies. The Kyrgyz Republic will ensure that each region makes a substantial contribution to the overall economic development of the country and that each region creates favorable conditions for the life of the population and the population has access to good quality services.