ADDRESSING SDG ACCELERATION AND POLICY SUPPORT:
DRIVERS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN GEORGIA

7-8 MAY, 2019, KACHRETI AMBASSADORI HOTEL
Georgia has undertaken measures to adapt the 2030 Agenda to national circumstances, defining **95 nationalized targets for the 17 global goals.**

The UN has conducted an assessment of how national and sub-national policies (strategies, action plans, regulatory acts, budgets) are aligned with the SDGs. The alignment exercise scanned 55 national and subnational strategies and the national budget Basic Data and Directions document for 2017-2020 (2019 -2022 budgeting cycle). The complexity analysis built on the results and captured interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs between and across the targets. The desk research was conducted during February-April 2019 and involved a multi-agency team of UN staff and specialist consultants.

1. **Alignment of national policies with the Agenda 2030**
2. **“5Ps” of the SDGs in the national development agenda**
3. **Institutional landscape of the SDGs**
4. **Vertical and horizontal coherence**
5. **National versus local alignment of the SDGs in development planning**
6. **National financing for the SDGs**
7. **The SDG complexity analysis**
8. **Conclusions**
Integration of nationalized SDGs into development planning of Georgia is very high:

**The 37 national strategies cover 93 per cent of nationalized SDG targets.**

However, the EU-Georgia Association Agreement (AA) alone covers 63% of targets, and if excluded, overall coverage drops by 8% in poverty (SDG 1), gender (5), inequality (10) and peace (16) goals.

**Considerable gaps** in alignment are observed in the following SDGs and associated targets:

- Gender equality (5)
- Reduced inequalities (10)
- Peace, justice and strong institutions (16)
- Partnerships for the goals (17)
Alignment of key development planning documents of Georgia with national SDGs

- 1. Poverty
- 2. Hunger
- 3. Health
- 4. Education
- 5. Gender
- 6. Water
- 7. Energy
- 8. Growth and Jobs
- 9. Infrastructure and industrialization
- 10. Inequality
- 11. Cities
- 12. Sustainable Consumption and Production
- 13. Climate change
- 14. Oceans
- 15. Lands
- 16. Inclusive governance
- 17. Partnership

36 national documents (excl. AA)

Association Agreement
2. “5Ps” of SDGs in the National Development Agenda

The SDGs can be grouped into five thematic Clusters:

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality

6. Climate Action
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Life on Land
14. Life Below Water
15. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
16. Partnerships for the Goals
Distribution of 5 "Ps" of SDGs across 37 planning and regulatory documents of Georgia

- People: 45%
- Prosperity: 26%
- Planet: 14%
- Peace: 11%
- Partnerships: 4%
3. INSTITUTIONAL LANDSCAPE OF SDGS

Agenda 2030 requires substantial and coordinated efforts across and within all national institutions and bodies.

The following ministries play the strongest role of integrating the agenda by contributing to the implementation of the majority of the nationalized SDG targets:

- Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development;
- Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs;
- Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture;
are covered through an **integrated approach** by most institutions, regardless of their sectoral profile.

Some goals are not well integrated across the national agencies and institutions. For example, the implementation of the SDG 3 (health) is highly concentrated in one policy document and is almost exclusively implemented by one institution (Ministry of Health).
The RIA assessment revealed six targets which are **not mainstreamed** into national Agenda 2030.

5.b Technologies for empowerment  
10.c Remittance transaction costs  
16.b Non-discriminatory laws and policies  
16.9 Legal identity for all  
17.8 Capacity building for data  
17.19.1. Measurements of progress

Five of these are **“means of implementation”**, targeting the capacity and institutional support needed to achieve the SDGs. The Government and development partners should consider the implications of not having enough institutional support structures to achieve Agenda 2030.
Strategies with best coverage of the nationalized SDG targets (out of 96)

| Freedom, rapid development & welfare government program 2018-2020 - 39 targets |
| Rural Development Strategy (2017-2020) - 20 targets |
| SME Development Strategy (2017-2020) and action plan - 15 targets |
| State Concept for Health Care System (2014-2020) - 13 targets |
| Regional Development Program (2018-2021) - 12 targets |
| Third National Environmental Action Programme (2017-2021) - 12 targets |
| Social-economic Development Strategy 2020 - 11 targets |
MAPS also assessed 18 sub-national strategies and plans. In most cases, sub-national planning documents prioritize the same SDG targets, regardless of the local geographic, economic or development profile.


This suggests that the strategies do not sufficiently capture local specificities and priorities. None of the sub-national documents cover SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and 14 (Life below water).

Tbilisi strategic and planning documents also have a weak coverage in the “People” group.
6. NATIONAL FINANCING FOR SDGS

An analysis of the Basic Data and Directions (BDD) document for 2017-2020 (2019 -2022 budgeting cycle) identified the distribution of programmed budgets against the SDGs.

State funding exists for all SDGs but some (SDG 5, 13, 14) do not figure in the BDD. In these cases, institutional reports/other commitments were used to estimate the financing amounts.

Peace (SDG 16), Education (4) and Infrastructure (9) clearly represent national priorities as they constitute the largest amounts of the programmed budget.

However, for Poverty (1) Gender (5), and the “Planet” goals (6, 12, 13, 14, 15), the programmed amounts only make up around 3% of the total programmed funds.
SDGs are an interconnected agenda. The ‘complexity’ analysis assessed interactions between targets and identified those that are highly connected. Such targets can play an influential role and can serve as ‘acceleration points.’
### 7.1 Examples of strongly influential targets: Potential acceleration or bottleneck points

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8. CONCLUSIONS

The potential acceleration points are targets of **Economic growth** and **Access to energy**. Targets that could provide strong enabling role are **Equal access to resources** and **Sustainable tourism**. They are highly influential in achieving other targets, but many of these are not well integrated across the government.

The potential weak points are targets related to **Agricultural productivity** and the **Employment targets (especially youth employment)**. **Environmental** and **Pollution** targets are also underperforming. All of these have strong linkages with other targets. If not addressed, they can pull the entire development agenda of Georgia backwards.

An assumption can be made that Georgia may be suffering from ‘jobless’ growth with little decent employment and other opportunities being provided to youth and other groups. The ‘Leave no one behind’ agenda should be considered as the highest priority for achieving the SDGs.

**Planetary SDG targets should be integrated into economic, social and other policies.** A ‘new growth’ model which considers climate change and environment should be discussed.