



GENEVA CONFERENCE ON
AFGHANISTAN

27 – 28 November 2018



Side Meeting Concept Note

Sustainable Development Goals

The role of SDGs in advancing development and reform in Afghanistan

28 November 2018, 14:00 – 15:30
Palais des Nations, Building C, Room I

BACKGROUND

The Government of Afghanistan has made significant progress on the nationalization and institutionalization of SDGs, with the Ministry of Economy acting as the Secretariat for the SDGs. Efforts to date have focused on nationalizing the global goals, targets and indicators: 188 A-SDG targets and indicators (plus disaggregated measurement where appropriate) have now been adapted to the Afghan context.

Political commitment to SDGs has been clearly signalled at the highest levels of Government. Coordination is being undertaken through four SDG Working Groups composed of relevant ministries with oversight provided by the Executive Committee on SDGs under the Office of the CEO.

The four SDG working groups have the following functions:

- Review the relevance of Afghan SDGs targets and indicators;
- Propose practical and concrete key actions to achieve these targets;
- Examine alignment with existing policies;
- Review data availability, collection, accuracy and management; and
- Assess the partnerships and financial needs required for implementation.

In July 2017, the Government reported on progress made on the nationalization and implementation of the SDGs at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York, under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council. The Geneva Conference will be an opportunity for the Government to provide a second update to key international partners on the considerable progress made in achieving the A-SDGs.

OBJECTIVES

The Side Meeting on SDGs will explore progress made by the Government and key stakeholders in establishing a framework for achieving the SDGs in Afghanistan. The meeting will also examine the importance of aligning the A-SDGs with national strategies and policies and the potential role of A-SDGs in helping the government deliver sustained and equitable services to its citizens.

The expected outcomes of the meeting are:

- Shared understandings of the progress made in achieving the A-SDG and their alignment with national strategies and policies, such as the ANPDF and the NPPs;
- Opportunities for participants to hear informed opinions from subject experts on the panel; and
- The provision for Afghanistan of a major forum in which to demonstrate progress, discuss challenges and the potential impact of A-SDGs with key partners.

FORMAT

The side meeting will be opened by H.E. Dr. Abdullah, Chief Executive of the GIRA, and Mr. Haoliang Xu, Regional Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific. A panel of experts will intervene on the global importance of the SDGs and progress being made on the A-SDGs, followed by a moderated open floor discussion between panelists and the audience.

PROPOSED AGENDA

Time	Agenda	Speaker
14:00	Welcome and Introduction	Moderator Sabina Alkire
14:05	Opening Remarks	H.E. Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive, GoIRA (TBC)
14:15	Panel discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress with A-SDGs. • Essential role of A-SDGs in meeting GoIRA development agenda. • Inclusive process adopted by GoIRA with stakeholders. • Role of ODA in achieving A-SDGs. • Alignment of national priorities and strategic plans with A-SDGs. • A-SDGs as a potential driver of social cohesion in Afghanistan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Mustafa Mastoor, Minister of Economy, GoA • Mr. Haoliang Xu, Regional Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific • Ms. Palwasha Hassan, Civil Society • Ms. Manizha Wafeq, Private Sector
14:30	Moderated discussion	All
10 :15	Closing	Panels and Moderator