



# UNECE

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UZBEKISTAN



## INTRODUCTION

UNECE technical cooperation activities form an integral part of the work of UNECE and are aimed at improving the capacity of member States to implement UNECE legal instruments, norms and standards as a means of their integration in the region and the world economy. All technical cooperation activities have a strong regional or subregional dimension and aim to provide common solutions to transboundary problems. Further, our activities support member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UNECE contributes to 11 core SDGs: SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 15 (life on land), together with the overarching contribution to SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals).

This brochure provides a snapshot of the technical cooperation activities delivered by UNECE to support Uzbekistan in its efforts towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by reaching the relevant SDGs and their targets.

## TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES BY SDGs



**Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages**

### ***Target 3.6. By 2020 halve global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents***

The UN *Convention on Road Traffic (1968)* and *Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1968)*, to which Uzbekistan is a signatory, aims to improve road safety by defining unified traffic rules and signs and signals to be applied among its 78/66 contracting parties. Countries that are party to the Convention have significantly lower road related deaths and injuries.

### ***Target 3.9. By 2030 substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination***

UNECE is strengthening the capacity of national experts to develop national inventories of air pollutant emissions, including an Informative Inventory Report and gridded emission data, with a view to Uzbekistan eventually joining the *Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution*. The Convention focuses on reducing key harmful pollutants and sets strict reduction targets for their release.

The *Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA)*, an initiative supporting countries' efforts in improving air quality and protecting public health and ecosystems, which was prepared under the leadership of the Bureau of the Convention and endorsed at the 8<sup>th</sup> Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 2016), is a mechanism to foster technical cooperation and help countries to access funding sources for technical cooperation projects in the future.



## Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

*Target 6.1. By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all*

*Target 6.2. By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations*

The UNECE, and WHO Regional Office for Europe *Protocol on Water and Health* to which Uzbekistan is currently in the process of accession, supports countries in setting national targets on water and health with the aim of reducing outbreaks of the water-borne diseases, thus contributing to reaching SDG 3 on good health and well-being. Prior to accession, Uzbekistan has been setting its national water and health targets with support of UNECE. Furthermore, the UNECE and WHO Regional Office for Europe *Protocol on Water and Health*, supports countries in setting national targets on water and health and can thereby translate and operationalize the achievement of SDG 6 in the national context, depending on national capacity and needs. The national targets that are being developed in the context of the Protocol are aimed at providing access to clean water and safe sanitation for all, as well as improving water quality and increasing water-use efficiency.

*Target 6.4. By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity, and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity*

*Target 6.5. By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate*

Uzbekistan is a beneficiary of the UNECE project *Capacity-building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia (phase 3)* (2017–2020). The project strengthens national and subregional capacities of Central Asian countries for developing and implementing institutional, regulatory and technical frameworks for dam safety. The project provides a platform for inter-state cooperation on dam safety, supports the drafting of national legislation on dam

safety, organizes roundtables and seminars to discuss it and subregional capacity-building events to “train the trainers” on dam safety.

Uzbekistan is party to *the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes*, which protects and ensures the quantity, quality and sustainable use of transboundary water resources by facilitating cooperation. In the framework of the Convention, UNECE provides training, seminars and conferences on cooperation for dam safety, river basin management and international water law in Central Asian countries.



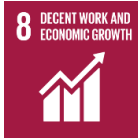
**Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**

***Target 7.2. By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix***

Through the recent project *Promoting Renewable Energy Investments for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Development*, UNECE helped Uzbekistan to prepare an inventory of renewable energy project proposals ready to attract financing. The project raised the capabilities of national stakeholders to prepare bankable renewable energy projects. Uzbekistan prepared 3 projects with an estimated total of \$8 million.

***Target 7A. By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology***

Uzbekistan is part of the UNECE project *Improving national capacities of Central Asian countries to harmonise and implement internationally applicable system of classification and sustainable management of energy and mineral resources* (2017-2019). The project helps countries to implement the international standard United Nations Framework Classification (UNFC) of energy and mineral resources. Through UNFC, countries can produce accurate and internationally comparable estimates of their current and future supply of energy and minerals. Consistent estimates allow for effective energy and resource management.



## Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

***Target 8.4. Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to de-couple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead***

The *UNECE Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context for Central Asia Countries* have been revised to serve as a tool for the Central Asian countries for the practical implementation of transboundary EIA procedures in accordance with the Espoo Convention, while also taking into account their subregional and national contexts and national legislation. The process has brought Central Asian countries together, facilitating a common understanding and dialogue at the subregional level to ensure sustainable development and the prevention of transboundary environmental threats.

Uzbekistan is considering joining the *Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention)*. UNECE is raising awareness of the benefits of applying EIA in the region, providing guidelines for its implementation and offering a platform for countries to share examples of practical applications of the Convention.

The *UNECE Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian Countries* (first drafted in 2007), were updated in 2017 by the Secretariat to the Espoo Convention with support from the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia. The guidelines provide further guidance on the application of the transboundary EIA procedure in accordance with the Convention, while also taking into account the subregional and national contexts. UNECE will also assist Uzbekistan in carrying out a short review of its environmental assessment legislation.

The *Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E)* is a mechanism to foster cooperation, including technical, and the exchange of knowledge, know-how and innovative technologies for greening the economy, including the business sector. Uzbekistan joined the initiative with five commitments: enhancing national legislation to develop alternative energy sources (the commitment is relevant to SDG 7); enhancing economic incentives for environmental

protection (relevant to SDG 12); introducing eco-labelling system of products and services (relevant to SDG 12); adopting the national strategy for municipal solid waste management (relevant to SDG 12); and constructing solar power plants (relevant to SDG 7). BIG-E operationalizes the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy, which was endorsed by the Ministers at their 8<sup>th</sup> Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Batumi, Georgia, in 2016. BIG-E remains open for more commitments until 2030.



### **Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation**

***Target 9.1. Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all***

The *Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under cover of TIR carnets (1975)* and *International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982)* are powerful tools for increasing transport efficiency. The TIR and Harmonization Conventions significantly contribute to the facilitation of international transport and trade across the borders of its 74/58 contracting parties, including Uzbekistan.

The *UNECE Euro Asian Transport Links (EATL)* project identified the main Euro-Asian road and rail routes for priority development and cooperation. Uzbekistan is one of 38 countries for which UNECE coordinates and facilitates the development of infrastructural projects, as well as the removal of physical and administrative bottlenecks in inland transport between Europe and Asia.

UNECE strengthened capacities of the representatives of Uzbekistan on UN transport related legal instruments during the International Conference *Central Asia in the System of International Transport Corridors (Tashkent, 2018)*. A strategic overview of infrastructure development projects (EATL), benefits of border crossing facilitation (TIR and Harmonization Convention) and of improvement of road safety (Vienna Conventions, SafeFITS, RSPR) were presented with special focus/data on the Central Asian countries.

***Target 9.4. By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial***



*processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities*

Uzbekistan is a beneficiary of the Assistance Programme under *UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents* and has made a high-level commitment to implement the Convention. The Convention helps countries to prevent industrial accidents that can have transboundary effects and to prepare for, and respond to accidents, if they occur. The UNECE project on *Strengthening Industrial Safety in Central Asia through the implementation of and accession to the Convention* (2016-2019) provides support to Uzbekistan in enhancing industrial safety and, thus, protecting human health and the environment. The project will enhance capacities for assessment of industrial safety and submission of a comprehensive national action plan to address gaps and deficiencies identified through a self-assessment. The project will further support Uzbekistan in progressing towards the Convention's implementation and possible future accession, and enhance transboundary cooperation in Central Asia, which will significantly reduce the risk of occurrence of industrial accidents and increase the ability of countries to respond effectively to such accidents.



**Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

*Target 11.1. By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums*

*Target 11.2. By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons*

Uzbekistan participates in the *Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)*. Established in 1998, SPECA improves cooperation among the countries of Central Asia, Afghanistan and Azerbaijan and supports their integration into the world economy. Within SPECA, the Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity represents a regional platform to cooperate on transport infrastructure development, connectivity,

border-crossing facilitation and road safety – to increase the efficiency of the regional transport system.



## Ensure sustainable production and consumption patterns

***Target 12.2. By 2030 achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources***

Activities reported under SDGs 6, 7, 8, and 15 also have a direct contribution to this target.

***Target 12.3. By 2030 halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer level, and reduce food losses along production and supply chains including post-harvest losses***

***Target 12a. Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacities to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production***

The recently concluded project *Strengthening the capacity of transition and developing economies to participate in cross-border agricultural food supply chains* helped beneficiary countries to adopt and implement international best practice to facilitate the trade of agricultural goods. Through this project, government officials and other key stakeholders from beneficiary countries received comprehensive, targeted and practical training for improving sustainable agricultural development.

Uzbekistan is a beneficiary of the UNECE project *Increased policy coherence and sustainability of national production and consumption patterns in North-South and South-South agriculture trade* (2018-2021). The project is increasing the capacity of national stakeholders to analyse and address the impact of trade requirements on export-oriented production and food loss. It is also enhancing national stakeholders' understanding of international standard for sustainable production patterns and food supply chains. The project will help to increase export opportunities and improve domestic market conditions through better governance, develop sustainable policy and business practices, implement

sound regulatory compliance and maximise the value of what is produced for human consumption.

***Target 12.4. By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment***

***Target 12.5. By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse***

***Target 12.6. Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle***

The *UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)* and the *Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention (Protocol on PRTRs)*, to which Uzbekistan is engaged as observer, contribute to the promotion of responsible consumption and production by providing a platform to share knowledge and good practices in fostering access to environment-related product information and information on emissions and transfers of wastes, public participation in product-related decision-making, and access to justice to challenge acts and omissions by private persons violating environmental law.



**Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**

***Target 13.2. Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning***

Activities under SDGs 6, 7, 8, 11 and 12 also have a direct contribution to SDG 13.



**Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

***Target 15.1. By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements***

***Target 15.2. By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally***

Uzbekistan is part of the joint UNECE/FAO project *Accountability systems for sustainable forest management in the Caucasus and Central Asia* (2016-2019) which helps countries to create national criteria and indicators and reporting systems for sustainable forest management. All beneficiary countries developed a national set of criteria and indicators for forest management, published within workshop reports in English and Russian. The publications include detailed process guidance on developing criteria and indicators at a national level as well as on participatory workshop methods. Uzbekistan also participates in the project on the preparation of the State of Forests in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

***Target 15.5. Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species***

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan participated a Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in the Caucasus and Central Asia 21-22 June 2018 in Astana, Kazakhstan organized by UNECE/FAO in cooperation with IUCN. The Roundtable provided an opportunity to align national and regional efforts in the Caucasus and Central Asia with the international Bonn Challenge – a global effort to bring 350 million ha of degraded and deforested land into restoration by 2030. Uzbekistan made a national commitment regarding the restoration of a degraded land in contribution to the global goal.



## Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

*Target 17.10. Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the WTO, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda*

*Target 17.11. Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020*

Uzbekistan is part of the UNECE project *Strengthening the capacity of Central Asian countries to implement trade facilitation measures and better integrate into the international rules-based trading system* (2018-2019). The project helps beneficiary countries to implement commitments under the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), that entered into force on 22 February 2017, by providing training, capacity-building and networking activities for national trade policy makers.

*Target 17.14. Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development*

In 2018, Uzbekistan requested UNECE to organize the third *Environmental Performance Review (EPR)*, which will cover issues related to legal and policy frameworks and a range of environmental media. It will also examine the efforts of the country to integrate environmental considerations in its sectoral policies. Since 2017, third-cycle EPRs include the review of relevant SDGs and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The EPR Programme will support Uzbekistan in achieving SDGs and reviewing progress in this regard.

*Target 17.17. Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships*

Uzbekistan is part of the UNECE project *Strengthening capacity of CIS countries to advance their use of public-private partnerships (PPPs) to achieve the SDGs* (2017-2018). The project provides capacity-building and policy advisory services to facilitate the implementation of PPP standards, and therefore improve their delivery.

UNECE provides Uzbekistan with continuous capacity-building on the implementation of the *UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)*, through developing expertise of professionals at region-wide thematic task force meetings (annually), subregional workshops, and by providing specialized guidance material, collections of good practices and online resources for their implementation. Activities under these instruments offer a platform to share experiences and to identify capacity-building needs of country experts with regard to effective access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters. UNECE also coordinates numerous capacity-building activities with partner organizations.

***Target 17.18. By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts***

***Target 17.19. By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries***

UNECE is helping Uzbekistan to *modernize its statistical production*. UNECE training builds capacity of staff of the Uzbek State Committee on Statistics on international standards and good practices for modernizing statistical production. UNECE also supports strengthening the capacity of Uzbekistan to produce statistics for monitoring progresses on the SDGs.



**UNECE Technical Cooperation  
in Uzbekistan**

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