

THE NINTH "ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE" MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

Special Session of the Committee on Environmental Policy

Key achievements to date and main challenges in advancing environmental agenda for sustainable development, within the substantive framework of the Second EPR

RUZANNA GRIGORYAN

HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DEPARTMENT
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA



REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENT

Government Programme of Armenia for 2021-2026

The main objectives are:

Complex conservation, protection, improvement, recovery and rational use of environment and natural resources, through balancing the social justice and economic efficiency.

The minimization of the negative impacts on the environment and exclusion of the overexploitation and illegal use of natural resources, ensuring the implementation of the preventive measures.

the vision towards green transition and climate resilience rests on the principles of green, resilient and low carbon growth, which entails scalability of adaptation and bankability of mitigation efforts, ranging from reforestation at scale to investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Environmental Policy of Armenia

The environmental protection policy of Armenia is:

- based on national legislation in full compliance with obligations taken by ratified multilateral and European agreements
- developed with the notion of identified environmental sector priorities, importance of cooperation with other sectors to catalyze finance towards addressing global environmental issues

Legal, Institutional and Strategic Framework

Legal Framework

Environmental sector is regulated by more over 1000 legal acts:

Codes, Laws, Government Decrees, Prime minister Decrees, Vice Prime minister Decrees, Minister orders

Institutional Framework

2018

- ✓ The environmental protection and mining inspection body was removed from the structure of the Ministry of Environment of RA.
- ✓ The State Forest Committee was formed as a state body under the Ministry.
- ✓ Biodiversity and forest policy department was formed at the Ministry, which was later split into two different departments.

2019

- ✓ Climate policy department was formed at the Ministry.
- ✓ The function of the Ministry of Emergency Situations – observations, studies and forecasts of hydrometeorological phenomena has been delegated to the Ministry of Environment.

2020

- ✓ “Forest Monitoring Center”, “Environmental Monitoring and Information Center”, “Service of Active influence on Hydrometeorological and Atmospheric Phenomena” SNCO-s have been united in “Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Center” SNCO.

2021

- ✓ The Department of Permits, Licenses and Compliances was split into the Department of Water Resources Management, Bioresource Management Department and Waste and Atmospheric Emissions Management Department.

EU-RA Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement

2018

EU-RA Comprehensive and enhanced partnership agreement(CEPA) ratified by RA.

2019

Roadmap of implementation of CEPA established

«Environment» Chapter

The Chapter includes over 100 activities related to air quality, water quality, natural resource management, waste management, biodiversity conservation, environmental governance, industrial pollution, chemicals management.

«Climate Change» Chapter

The Chapter includes 20 activities . The activities are aimed, in particular, at meeting the commitments under the Paris Agreement, reducing and preventing climate change negative impact through appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures.

SDG 2030 Agenda

2015

- ✓ The Interagency Commission for the Sustainable Development Goals was formed.

2018

- ✓ The ecological subgroup of the Commission developed recommendations for the nationalization of SDG 6, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 17.

2020

- ✓ New Council on Sustainable Development Goals was formed.
- ✓ Armenia developed and submitted the voluntary report on the assessment of SDGs in Armenia in 2020.

Main achievements

The new and **updated NDC** and the **National Climate Change Adaptation Plan and the Action Plan for 2021-2025 (NAP)**. The updated NDC demonstrates increase in Government's climate ambition and defines that country's new mitigation goal to be implemented by 2030 is equivalent to 40% reduction compared to the level of emissions in 1990, which is driven by the energy sector.

Fostering Green Economy

Adoption of policies aimed at fostering Green Economy has been outlined as a priority in Government Programme 2021-2026 of the Republic of Armenia.

implementation of the e-vehicles promotion strategy (EVs imported in 2017 is 27, while in 2022 – more than 7000. More than 100 charging stations are installed in nearly all regions of Armenia)

introduction of the Extended Producer's Responsibility concept in Armenia,

introduction of a cost-effective renewable energy source in the country in line with its strategy to foster low carbon generation and development of renewables

Second EPR of Armenia

The second Environmental Performance Review of Armenia is considered by Armenia as an assessment tool of the country's progress in overcoming global environmental challenges, achieving sustainable development goals, and fulfilling international environmental obligations.

The review is done for the past decade and the recommendations received by the UNECE expert group come to prove that the series of reforms undertaken by the GoA and the adopted environmental agenda are in line with EU standards and international commitments

Considering the cross-sectoral nature of the EPR it will support creating an introductory basis for initiating the integrated approach of the introduction to the multi-functional implementation of Environmental Policy with the involvement of all stakeholders.

The involvement of Armenia in UNECE processes and initiatives has an important role in shaping the environmental agenda and reforms implemented in the country's environmental sector.

In response to several challenges the Government of Armenia has delivered a successful Covid-19 response by providing support measures such as creating green jobs for the suffered sectors of economy and vulnerable strata of population. Green recovery approach has been prioritized and incorporated into the designed support framework and negotiated with international development partners. However, the ongoing economic downturn requires more resources to be channeled and mobilized for re-engineering economic growth, and thus requires support from donor agencies and international development partners in recovering the country's economy through green recovery interventions.