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Brief Statement on the Current Civil Society Organizations Review of SDGs Process in Ukraine

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Executive summary

In 2020 Ukraine will be preparing the Voluntary National Review (VNR) for the first time. Currently "2019 Progress Report: SDGs in Ukraine", 2017 National Baseline report and several thematic reports available only. In September 2019 the starting transition process of Ukrainian public authorities which lead the implementation and reporting on 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development in Ukraine. According to the Presidential Decree from September 30, 2019 #722/2019 the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine are responsible for implementation, monitoring and reporting on SDGs in Ukraine. In December 12, 2019 Ukraine Parliament's Economic Development Committee held the hearing about implementation of the Concept of Sustainable Development in Ukraine and have been started the drafting Law of Ukraine "On the Principles of State Policy for Sustainable Development of Ukraine".

Among our recommendations to government is "create collaborative national state-led multi-stakeholder platform on SDGs which will open for civil society organizations (CSOs), academia, business representatives and active citizens in Ukraine".

Introduction

In 2020 Ukraine will be presenting the first SDGs progress in their Voluntary National Review (VNR). VNR provides an independent analysis of reporting by Ukraine, as UN Member State, to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) under the auspices of ECOSOC taking place 7-17 July, 2020 at UNHQ in New York. This brief prepared on pro-bono bases for the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (19 March 2020, Geneva) and online presented (conducted in this form by recent COVID-19 crisis) during Virtual Civil Society Forum, UNECE RFSD 2020 in March 18, 2020. The Brief was shared and discussed online with civil society organizations in Ukraine (1).

1. Overview of the SDGs localization done in 2016-2017 in Ukraine

In Ukraine national consultations for localization SDGs 2030 were organised by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MEDT) of Ukraine and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in June - September 2016 and LPW public experts (included Dr. Olena Lazorenko) actively took part in this process. These consultations dealt with Ukrainian policy within the framework of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Based on the 'leave no-one behind principle', the process of SDG localisation in Ukraine is monitored through a national webpage including 86 national development targets and 172 indicators.

Over 800 experts participated in public consultations in the thematic areas covered by the submitted proposals concerning SDGs for Ukraine and were involved in an open process of establishing national tasks to ensure the objectivity of the assessments. There were two

rounds of consultations: one at the national level and another one at the regional level. The national level consultation process included representatives of government agencies, UN agencies in Ukraine, international organisations, the business community, CSOs and experts. The regional consultations included representatives of executives, regional state administrations, local governments, communities, international organisations, CSOs and experts. LPW's experts were invited to the national level consultation process and, as part of the national level experts working groups on SDGs 4, 5 and 8, forwarded our advice to the MEDT (2). In 2017 Ukraine provided Sustainable Development Goals: Ukraine. 2017 National Baseline Report (3).

2.Ukraine`s Institutional Mechanism on SDGs

On the basis of public information available as **16 March 2020**, we note the following country`s information on the institutions in charge of coordination and integration for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Baseline National Report (published in 2017) was approved by the High Level Inter-Ministerial Working Group (coordinated by MEDT) for the implementation of SDGs in Ukraine (2). In September 2019 the starting transition process of Ukrainian public authorities will lead the implementation and reporting of SDGs. According to the Presidential Decree from 30 September 2019 #722/2019 the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine are responsible for implementation, monitoring and reporting on SDGs in Ukraine. Cabinet Ministers of Ukraine issued the Decree N 686-p from 21.08.2019 on which established the national SDGs monitoring system and indicated the 183 indicators and state Agencies and Ministries responsible for data collection and calculations of indicators. Order of the Prime Minister of Ukraine №33598/1/1-19 dated 03.12.2019 on the implementation of the Presidential Decree №722/2019 dated 30.09.2019 'On the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine for the period up to 2030' the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine is responsible for the SDGs implementation and monitoring in Ukraine, including the preparation of a Voluntary National Review (VNR) on Ukraine's progress towards the SDGs to be presented in 2020.

In additional, LPW received information in the end of December 2019 at UNDP public event in Kyiv from Ms. Manal Fouani, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Ukraine concern current lead government`s responsible institutions for the preparation of the first 2020 Ukraine Voluntary National Review (2020 VNR) for Sustainable Development. The Interagency Working Group on the Coordination of Implementation and Monitoring of the SDGs in Ukraine leading by: Mr.Kuleba, Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration; Mr. Nikolaychuk, Depute Ministry of the Ministry of Economic Development and Agriculture of Ukraine; and Mr.Ihor Verner, Chair of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine (in 4 March 2020 The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine resigned; the names of the new VNR state leaders are not known at this time.)

In December 2019 the e-request has been sent to Mr. Nikolaychuk, Depute Ministry of the Ministry of Economic Development and Agriculture of Ukraine, concerns for the 2020 VNR process, but until now we don`t have official feedback. ***We are waiting the official publishing of the 2020 Ukraine Monitoring Report, maybe it will be the first country's 2020 VNR.***

At state web-sources, for example, the Ministry of Economic Development and Agriculture of Ukraine <https://me.gov.ua/Documents/List?lang=uk-UA&id=938d9df1-5e8d-48cc-a007-be5bc60123b8&tag=TSiliStalogoRozvitku> and the State Statistics Service of Ukraine <http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/> published (a) '2019 Progress Report: SDGs in Ukraine' (monitoring of the SDGs indicators for 2015-2018); this 2019 report was prepared by the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine and State Statistics Service of Ukraine with support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) office in Ukraine. (B) First thematic National Report 'SDGs for Children in Ukraine', 2019. (C) National Report 'SDGs in Ukraine. SDG8 Decent Work and Economic Growth' with focus on youth, 2019. Unfortunately, these documents are absent at UN DESA Knowledge platform at part "input to HLPF" web-portal <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/inputs/> (in 2019 there are 148 search results, with only one Ukrainian input to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development from League of Professional Women as other stakeholders (4)).

Therefore, the "Interagency Working Group on the Coordination of Implementation and Monitoring of the SDGs in Ukraine" is **not right** at current time as collaborative national state-led multi-stakeholder platform for civil societies organizations (CSOs), academia, business representatives and active citizens in Ukraine. Besides that's even to talk about funding insuring the participation of Ukrainian women's CSOs in review processes of the 2030 Agenda at the global, national or local levels.

3.Parliament's engaged in the 2030 Agenda

20 August 2018 was registered the draft Law of Ukraine "On the Strategy of Implementation the Model of Sustainable Development of Ukraine until 2030" (see here http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=64515 . The draft Law was to approve the Strategy for the implementation of the model of sustainable development of Ukraine until 2030, which is in the Doctrine of Sustainable Development of Ukraine until 2030 <https://www.ukraine2030.org/en> and this brief authors involved in this process.

12 December 2019 the Economic Development Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine held the hearing about implementation of the Concept of Sustainable Development in Ukraine. https://youtu.be/yL9G8_5JLTI, which was moderated by Prof. Nina Chala. As a result of the hearings in the Economic Development Committee established the "Ukraine 2030 Working Group". The Ukraine 2030 Working Group was set up in the Committee on Economic Development to develop the draft Law of Ukraine "On the Principles of State Policy for Sustainable Development of Ukraine". The working group under the leadership of the First Deputy Chairman of the Committee is developing the draft Law of Ukraine "On the Principles of State Policy for Sustainable Development of Ukraine". It will determine the model of further development of the country to achieve the UN Global Objectives <https://www.ukraine2030.org/en>. The Ukraine 2030 Working Group involves participation of the People's Deputies of Ukraine, representatives of key scientific-analytical institutions and business, experts, and scientists. In order to discuss relevant legislative initiatives as well as directions for the implementation of sustainable development policy in Ukraine, the Committee plans to hold a parliamentary hearing on the topic "On the principles of state policy of sustainable development of Ukraine" at the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on 03 June 2020. Link: http://komprompol.rada.gov.ua/news/main_news/73388.html (information is available only in Ukrainian).

4. Get a picture of recommendations for public authorities from CSOs in the review of SDGs in Ukraine (UNECE region).

1. Create collaborative national state-led multi-stakeholder platform on SDGs which will open **for civil society organizations (CSOs), academia, business representatives and active citizens in Ukraine**. Open access for new Platform is needed.
2. We recommend public discussions with different types of civil society organisations (including women NGOs, environmental organizations, older people & youth organisations, disability organisations, trade unions, employers' organizations, etc.) including the use of social networks and the Internet. It is necessary to create an online forum on the government portal for interactive communication with CSOs.
3. It is extremely important to disseminate CSOs best practices in public policy. For these we proposed workshops and consultations between the public sector and state decision makers.
4. Advocacy for the implementation of SDGs in all policies of the state through creative social actions, including to building effective dialogue between CSOs and government.
5. Create consolidated national SDGs roadmap for coordination, monitoring & evaluation, and reporting in Ukraine with planned actions, target output, implementation period and funding & responsible agency.
6. Now it is necessary to review the progress of SDGs indicators due to the effects of coronavirus and climate change. The Coronavirus will significantly affect to Goal 1, Goal 3, Goal 4, Goal 5, Goal 8. The Coronavirus pandemic has made a significant problem for the capacity of countries' health systems. The closure of schools and universities restricts access to education and also reduces the economic opportunities of working women. According to preliminary estimates, the coronavirus pandemic will reduce the global economy by 3 p.p.

Useful sources

- (1) Online link to the Brief Statement <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HnBPMPOo-xpJoxDCTZrKemXYz2aO85t3hWjp3qw-bA/edit>
- (2) Olena Lazorenko, League of Professional Women and Institute of Philosophy of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine: Democratising the policy dialogue on SDG localisation: the experience of the League of Professional Women in Ukraine <https://www.civicus.org/index.php/re-imagining-democracy/stories-from-the-frontlines/3375-democratising-the-policy-dialogue-on-sdg-localisation-the-experience-of-the-league-of-professional-women-in-Ukraine> // CIVICUS REPORT: Democracy for All: Beyond a Crisis of Imagination #ReimaginingDemocracy, November 2018 <https://www.civicus.org/documents/reports-and-publications/reimagining-democracy/democracy-for-all-en.pdf>
- (3) 2017 Baseline National Report on the SDGs in Ukraine. <http://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/en/home/library/sustainable-development-report/sustainable-development-goals--2017-baseline-national-report.html>
- (4) League of Professional Women - Para 89 - HLPF 2019 \Inputs to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. USA, New York. 2019. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=30022&nr=2250&menu=3170>
- (5) 2019 Progress Report: SDGs in Ukraine' (monitoring of the SDGs indicators for 2015-2018) http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/menu/st_rozv/publ/SDGs13.01.2020_engl.pdf
- (6) Ukraine 2030. The Doctrine of Sustainable Development <https://www.ukraine2030.org/en> <https://www.ukraine2030.org/img/book/E-Book-Doctrine-2030-en.pdf>
- (7) Sustainable Development Goals in Ukraine <http://sdg.org.ua/> (last update in 2018)