

# REPORT

## **Seventh North and Central Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**

**Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and Eradicating Poverty  
in Times of Multiple Crises: The Effective Delivery of  
Sustainable, Resilient, and Innovative Solutions in  
North and Central Asia**

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1-2 November 2023, Almaty, Kazakhstan and online

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Seventh North and Central Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals was held on 1 and 2 November 2023 in a hybrid form in Almaty, Kazakhstan and online. The Forum was organised by the Subregional Office for North and Central Asia (SONCA) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The Forum was opened by Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP; H.E. Mr. Daniyar Amangeldiev, Minister of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic; H.E. Mr. Abzal Abdikarimov, Vice-Minister of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Ms. Gwi Yeop Son, Regional Director for Europe, and Central Asia of United Nations Development Coordination Office.

The objectives of the Forum were to review inclusive, resilient, and sustainable strategies to address key challenges for the implementation of the SDGs in North and Central Asia and to identify priorities to accelerate progress on sustainable development in the subregion. The programme of the Forum is attached as Annex 1.

The Forum was attended by a total of 110 participants (56 female, 54 male) from all ESCAP member countries in North and Central Asia, as well as from other subregions and regions. There were 26 representatives from member States (13 female, 13 male), 11 participants from civil society organisations (9 female, 2 male), 11 participants from academia and think tanks (7 female, 5 male), 1 participant from the private sector (1 female), 14 participants from international and regional organisations (5 female, 9 male), and 37 participants from the United Nations system (21 female, 16 male). A total of 66 participants participated in person and 44 participants participated online. The list of participants is provided in Annex 2.

## 2. Substantive discussions and outcomes

### Session 1: Delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Times of Multiple Crises

The session focused on subregional progress, good practices, and priorities for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in North and Central Asia. It discussed efforts to accelerate inclusive recovery amidst compounding crises and how this could be aligned with initiatives to implement the SDGs in the social, environmental, and economic dimensions. It also suggested concrete solutions to improve the monitoring of SDG progress and gaps and to build momentum for accelerated action.

The session noted that North and Central Asian countries progressed towards achieving the SDGs since 2015 and identified areas where countries championed progress in all six thematic SDGs. However, the session noted that the subregion stands decades away from the full attainment of the SDGs. As 2022 was the midpoint of the SDG implementation, the North and Central Asian subregion should exceed at least 50 per cent of the implementation progress. According to the 2022 ESCAP Asia-Pacific SDG Gateway, the subregion's average progress on all seventeen SDGs goals was only 13.2 per cent. Satisfactory progress (35 per cent) was made on Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), while the subregion continues to regress (-49 per cent) on Goal 13 (Climate action). In addition, multiple global crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and geopolitical uncertainty, and food and energy inflation, had severely affected countries' socio-economic development with significant implication for the

implementation of the SDGs. Most worryingly, the session observed backsliding trends on critical issues, such as climate resilience and food security.

The session highlighted the catalytic and multiplier effects of six transitions, including food systems, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection and climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, across the SDGs. Among the areas of focus, the session highlighted impacts related to reducing food insecurity, continuing transition to clean energy, promoting digital tools, investing in healthcare and education, expanding social protection coverage, and building resilience to disaster and climate impacts, and increasing data availability.

The session examined ongoing efforts to align national initiatives with progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It highlighted the importance of monitoring implementation status of the SDGs. In recent years, Kyrgyzstan had focused on developing regions, creating a favourable investment climate and the introducing innovations and the digitalisation into the economy. Building on positive results and aiming to address existing problems, Kyrgyzstan launched initiatives for system transformation and implemented reforms for inclusive and quality education and promotion of an inclusive green economy. In 2023, the Parliament of Kazakhstan had established a commission to monitor the implementation of national goals and objectives in the field of sustainable development and adopted 262 national SDG indicators. In Kyrgyzstan, 171 out of 232 global SDG indicators had been developed nationally.

The session highlighted the importance of regional cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnerships in delivering inclusive, resilient, and sustainable solutions for the subregion. Regional cooperation based on the principles of good neighbourliness, partnership and mutual benefit was seen as a key priority to address the region's most complex issues, including the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The importance of holistic partnership in fostering innovative solutions, from tackling poverty and hunger to climate action and promoting social justice was highlighted. It recognised that public, private, civil society and international stakeholders have a role to play in ensuring that the necessary measures are taken to achieve sustainable development. Active engagement of international partners, facilitation of investments and support for international development programmes could generate additional resources for sustainable economic development and poverty reduction. Within this framework, the UN has played a key role in facilitating coordination, building partnerships, promoting innovation, exchanging knowledge, mobilizing resources and, and advocating the importance of monitoring and reporting.

## Session 2: “Eradicating extreme poverty for all” (SDG 1)

The session aimed to assess poverty reduction trends, progress, challenges, and priorities in the subregion, focusing on the interlinkages and multidimensional nature of poverty. It discussed the role of social protection systems and government policies in mitigating the impact of multiple crises on the most vulnerable, protecting and investing in people and building resilience, especially among women and vulnerable groups. The session also discussed innovative solutions to scale-up resource mobilization for poverty reduction and investment in human capital development and to support more inclusive and equitable access to economic opportunities and jobs. The session reiterated the importance of international and regional organisations, development banks and other key stakeholders in supporting poverty reduction efforts through more effective development assistance and subregional cooperation.

SDG 1 No Poverty remains at the heart of sustainable development. Recognising the multidimensional nature of poverty, poverty reduction measures included jobs and social protection, health, education, and a transition to the green economy, among others. The session noted that North and Central Asia had achieved

significant progress in SDG 1, despite the challenge posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. In Azerbaijan, the proportion of the population living below the national poverty line fell from 9.1 per cent in 2010 to 4.9 per cent by 2015 and increased to 6.2 per cent in 2020 and declined to 5.9 per cent in 2021. Tajikistan is among the top ten countries with the fastest poverty reduction rate, with the poverty rate fell from 83 per cent to 22.5 per cent from 2000 to 2022.

The session also noted that low employment growth resulting from the slow global economic recovery due to elevated inflation and restrictive monetary policies enacted by central banks presented multiple challenges. In addition, the session pointed out that women, particularly those from rural communities or working in the informal sector, faced additional barriers due to limited access to basic services, social protection, and education. Young people aged 15 to 24, also faced difficulties in securing stable employment. In Central Asian countries, the Human Capital Index, developed by the World Bank to measure the amount of human capital attainable by a child born today at the age of 18, adjusted for education quality and health risks, was low and dropped further when adjusted for the quality of higher education and risks to adult health.

Social protection accounts for a significant share of total government expenditure in North and Central Asia. In Azerbaijan, the share of total government spending on basic social services, including social protection and social security, education, and healthcare, increased by 7.4 per cent to 39.8 per cent from 2019 to 2020 and decreased by 1.4 per cent to 38.4 percent in 2021. The largest share and highest increase in total social spending was on social protection and social security. From 2019 to 2020, the share of social protection and social security expenditure in total social spending rose by 3.7 per cent, reaching 24.1 per cent. From 2020 to 2021, the share of social protection and social security expenditure slightly reduced by 1 per cent to 23.1 per cent. In Turkmenistan, social spending accounted for 75% of the state budget. It focused on providing subsidised transport and utilities, education grants, and allowances for women, older persons, and other targeted groups.

On the way forward, the session highlighted the interlinkages between SDG 1 and other SDGs in developing solutions for poverty eradication. Kyrgyzstan identified and committed two priority areas, which were inclusive green economy and education at the occasion of the SDG Summit in July 2023 in New York. Azerbaijan placed particular emphasis on the interlinkages between SDG 2 Zero Hunger, SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation, and SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy. The session recommended supporting rural women in developing agroecology by promoting knowledge sharing in the subregion. Despite the achievements, participants highlighted the need to improve poverty assessment with better data and the need to refer updated and nationally appropriate poverty lines.

The session called for better coordination and strategic planning between national sustainable development strategy and budgeting, to ensure that sufficient resources are mobilized for enhanced poverty reduction measures. It would also require harmonization of existing laws and regulations in support of poverty eradication.

The session recommended to develop evidence-based, digitalised, and targeted solutions for poverty reduction. For example, Uzbekistan introduced a Single Protection System Register for social protection, which successfully provided targeted support through community-oriented models.

The session stressed that skills and capacity development are key to poverty reduction. It recommended further investment in vocational training as a cost-effective way to reduce poverty. It suggested increasing formalisation of the economy to broaden the tax base and increase the fiscal space for public investment in poverty reduction.

### Session 3: “End hunger and all forms of malnutrition” (SDG 2)

The objective of the session was to assess subregional progress towards SDG 2 Zero Hunger, identify key challenges to food security, and propose measures and innovative solutions to enable more productive, resilient, and efficient food systems in North and Central Asia.

It was noted that countries in North and Central Asia have made significant progress towards eradicating hunger. The prevalence of undernourishment, such as chronic hunger, had declined sharply over the past two decades. However, progress had been stagnant in recent years, while cases of micronutrient deficiency and obesity are rising sharply across the subregion. In particular, a healthy and nutritious diet remained out of reach for more than 13 million people in the subregion. The subregion thus facade wide range of food security and nutrition challenges, which were further exacerbated by ongoing socio-economic and climatic crises.

Rising food prices and disruptions in the supply of agricultural products continued to undermine food security throughout North and Central Asia, particularly among vulnerable groups such as the poor and remote communities. Food inflation was partly attributed to underdeveloped transport infrastructure, which could potentially double or even triple food prices. At the same time, an average of 39 percent of food production enterprises in the subregion considered inadequate transport conditions to be an obstacle to efficient food distribution. However, given the landlocked nature of most of the countries in the subregion, road freight remained the main mode of transport. The session noted that it was essential to improve the quantity and quality of roads to improve food supply and reach isolated communities.

The session also discussed the climate change and associated risks to agricultural production. Significant increase in in temperature extremes and decreases in rainfall in the subregion were contributing to droughts and water scarcity. As these trends were expected to intensify, agricultural productivity in the subregion would be increasingly threatened especially as the agricultural sector remains the main user of freshwater. In Kyrgyzstan, for instance, the agricultural used more than 90 per cent of the water supply. More worryingly, the session pointed out that the climate change will disproportionately affect the poor, whose livelihoods are highly dependent on agriculture.

Innovative technologies and practices were identified as key measures to mitigate water scarcity and make food systems more resilient to climate change. In particular, it was recommended to adopt a new crop rotation system and to introduce conservation agriculture by reducing mechanical soil disturbance, using crop residues, and diversifying crop species. Similarly, the importance of implementing modern water-saving technologies to ensure water availability was highlighted. The use of local traditional crops was considered equally important as they are high adaptable to climate change and can be easily managed on a small scale through organic and sustainable agriculture.

Above all, the need for greater cooperation to address growing food insecurity emerged as the running theme of the session. The session noted that this includes not only unimpeded trade in key agricultural commodities but also the provision of food aid to countries in need. In addition, addressing issues of food production and distribution requires improved regional connectivity with support of development partners. It was estimated that mega-projects such as the Eurasian Transport Network and Eurasian Commodity Distribution Network would increase regional food trade and freight traffic by 30 and 40 per cent, respectively. It was also noted that the importance of cross-border paperless trade initiatives to facilitate border crossings, which often function as a barrier to efficient food transport throughout the subregion. Finally, cooperation with the private sector remains crucial for the development and deployment of modern technologies and innovations to combat climate change.

#### Session 4: “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts” (SDG 13)

The objective of the session was to comprehensively address the multidimensional challenges posed by climate change in North and Central Asia. The discussion covered a range of topics, including transboundary cooperation, data availability, sustainable energy transition, sustainable and climate finance, and the role of various stakeholders in mitigating the impacts of climate change.

A common thread running through the discussion was the multidimensional nature of climate change. In particular, the session highlighted the need for green economy-oriented government reforms, environmental education, and the incorporation of climate awareness into educational curricula. Transboundary cooperation was underscored as crucial, emphasizing the cross-cutting nature of climate change that requires the involvement of all sectors of government and society. Leveraging regional platforms was identified as a critical instrument to increase awareness and visibility on the global stage. Green technologies will play a crucial role in promoting green growth by reducing environmental impacts and enhancing the resilience and adaptability of systems.

The session also shed light on the challenges related to data on Sustainable Development Goal 13 (SDG 13). This included the insufficient data availability, partly due to poor coordination between Statistic Offices and teams working on greenhouse gas emissions. Despite stable emissions in North and Central Asia, there are gaps in National Determined Contributions commitments. However, the examples of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, which have pledged to achieve zero carbon dioxide emissions, showed growing momentum. The untapped potential of nature-based solutions, especially in sectors such as energy, transport, and forestry, was also highlighted as a key area for support, particularly to leverage investment from the private sector.

On the energy-climate nexus, the session remarked regional progress in solar and wind power and highlighted the cost-effectiveness and employment opportunities in renewable energy. The importance of a sustainable energy transition, including elements such as electrification, hydrogen, and carbon capture, was underscored. However, the need for significant acceleration across energy sectors and technologies was identified, as well as the need for forward-looking planning and addressing the financial aspects of these initiatives. Increasing access to and scaling up of sustainable finance in the sub-region was highlighted as a critical component, along with the development of a robust regulatory framework, such as the development of green finance taxonomies, to drive capital towards climate action. This should be accompanied by efforts to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the transition.

The session also remarked on the important role of policymakers and governments in setting the direction at the national level and implementing robust climate strategies to drive progress towards international commitments. Among other things, Georgia's focus on creating a green economy and its commitment to carbon neutrality by 2050 were highlighted.

Looking forward, the session emphasised the need for effective mechanisms to improve access to technologies and the importance of integrating gender and social aspects and actors throughout the transition. Mobilising the necessary financing, in particular private investment, accelerating the energy transition, and scaling up support and resources for climate adaptation were identified as key priorities. The needs to collect and make available robust and disaggregated data on emissions trends, including by sector and industry. Investing in the right skills and capacities of stakeholders was identified as equally important, together with addressing specific gender, youth, and social issues. Common to these priorities was the need for continued regional cooperation, partnerships, and multi-stakeholder engagement to ensure a whole-of-society approach to tackling the climate crisis.

Session 5: “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels” (SDG 16)

The session highlighted aspects of subregional challenges and progress in the implementation of SDG 16. Focusing on vulnerable groups, such as older persons, migrants and refugees, and persons with disabilities, the first part of the session discussed national and transnational policies and frameworks, digital innovations, and stakeholder engagement. The second part of the session discussed the need for common frameworks and their implementation, as well as for close cooperation among stakeholders, in the context of combatting illicit financial flows and corruption and strengthening business integrity.

As societies in North and Central Asia were ageing, the increasing number of vulnerable older persons necessitated responsive labour markets, social protection, and health systems. There was a digital divide by age and gender, with the majority of people aged 75 and over not having access to the internet. This was a challenge as governments increasingly delivered their services online. Progress was also made on government-civil society cooperation in several countries, including the introduction of social procurement, the development of national policies through inter-governmental working groups, or participation in public councils to ensure transparency and accountability. Cooperation at local level focused on training the elderly to self-organise and participate in civic life. Key challenges included lack of funding and institutional bottlenecks.

Refugees, forcibly displaced persons, stateless persons, and victims of trafficking were identified among the most vulnerable and marginalised groups, while labour migrants continued to face serious challenges. As remittances played a crucial role for the subregion, the reduction of overall remittance costs and the increased use of digital remittance solutions were considered as good practices. In addition, the European Union’s special programme to educate girls and women from Afghanistan in Kazakhstan was a practical contribution to future peace and security.

Another particularly vulnerable group was persons with disabilities. Data on exact numbers and types of disabilities disaggregated by gender and age were unfortunately lacking throughout North and Central Asia. Persons with disabilities often lacked the skills and opportunities to express their concerns or participate in civic life. Examples of good practices implemented in Kazakhstan included a quota for women, persons with disabilities and youth for seats in parliament, and mechanisms such as public councils, advisors and working groups. Another positive trend was a pilot programme on independent living.

In terms of progress in digital technology, countries in North and Central Asia have not kept pace with technological innovations. On the other hand, the regulatory environment to encourage innovation in the digital sector was not fully developed, although Kyrgyzstan demonstrated progress in this regard. Taking part in digital transformation required the adoption of new resolutions and taxonomies that were suitable for all users. Curbing illicit financial flows was another challenge discussed. There was limited awareness of measuring methods among involved state agencies, inaccessible data, and weak inter-agency cooperation. A good practice in this context was the illicit financial flows project launched by Kyrgyzstan and ESCAP in 2021.

Participants also discussed how countries in the subregion were progressing in the fight against corruption. The absence of a comprehensive system of liability for corruption offences in the private sector, robust mechanisms for corporate liability, and adequate whistleblower protection hampered the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts. Transparent registries of private companies ownership structures should be established to prevent conflicts of interest and to verify the assets of public officials. Digitalisation of public services was recognised as a universal integrity tool.

On the inclusion of vulnerable social groups, it was suggested to provide decent work for people of all ages and abilities; to design universal social protection schemes and gender policies that are sensitive to the differentiated needs of different vulnerable groups; to provide universal health coverage; and to engage in regional cooperation and data collection. The discussion also highlighted the need to strengthen cooperation between different stakeholders, including civil society and government.

On combatting corruption and illicit financial flows, it was recommended to strengthen anti-corruption analysis, corruption risk assessment and monitoring, harmonise national legislation with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and strengthen its enforcement, while building capacity and multi-stakeholder dialogue among government, business, and professional associations. The discussion highlighted the importance of ensuring that the regulatory environment is more transparent and accountable, that decision making is more data-driven and that administrative (e-governance) and business procedures are digitalised. International measurement methods for illicit financial flows need to be further developed and national tools to be developed based on national specificities, while specialists from agencies involved in illicit financial flows measurements need to be trained.

#### Session 6: “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development” (SDG 17)

The purpose of the session was to discuss various existing and emerging challenges and initiatives to revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development and the means of its implementation, as well as to explore opportunities for inter-organizational coordination within North and Central Asia.

North and Central Asian countries have made progress towards SDG 17, which is considered as the "anchor point" SDG, with comprehensive coverage of key elements in their national policies and strategies as well as initiatives to promote cooperation among countries for greater economic prosperity and stronger ties.

Despite the progress, challenges for effectively implementing the targets persist. These include inadequate data to monitor progress, insufficient financial resources from both the public and private sectors to drive SDG implementation, and inconsistent policy measures in key areas including migration and climate change. Despite the region's rich natural resources, the lack of human capital was recognised as a challenge that requires special attention for successful SDG implementation.

Trade and investment were emphasised as engine for inclusive growth and means of the sustainable development. In particular, trade facilitation measures can bring significant economic, social, and environmental benefits by lowering trade costs, increasing inclusive participation in trade, and reducing energy consumption. Climate-smart trade facilitation, particularly through digitalisation, was presented as an opportunity for North and Central Asian countries to boost trade while at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The importance of inclusive, sustainable, and development-oriented trade policies was also underlined.

The discussion also highlighted the importance of scaling up various conventional and non-conventional financing options, strategies, and measures including those from the private sector. Potential methods to incentivise the private sector to support the SDGs, including special tax regimes, and partnership among all financial partners were suggested. A special focus on the development of a sustainable finance ecosystem was also highlighted as a critical requirement, in particular to align private finance with sustainable objectives and scale up current financial flows.

Triangular and South-South cooperation were highlighted as important platforms for exploring solutions and opportunities for collaboration through peer learning and knowledge sharing. The discussion also



highlighted the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement in raising public awareness, building institutional capacity, enhancing expertise, and improving policy coherence.

Looking ahead, priority areas for North and Central Asia were discussed and identified. These included strengthening regional cooperation, improving data collection and availability, fostering educational improvement and human capital development, and encouraging innovative financing models. To achieve these priorities, the session stressed the need for continued cooperation, partnerships, and innovative approaches. The importance of sustainable finance, trade and investment, and the active engagement of the private sector were highlighted as critical components for sustainable development.

## Annex I: Programme

### Seventh North and Central Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

*Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and Eradicating Poverty in Times of Multiple Crises: The Effective Delivery of Sustainable, Resilient, and Innovative Solutions in North and Central Asia*

Time	Sessions
<b>1 November 2023</b>	
<b>Morning</b> 08:30 to 09:00	<b>Registration</b>
09:00 to 10:00	<p><b>Opening of the Forum:</b> Delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Times of Multiple Crises  <b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Nikolay Pomoshchnikov, Head, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia, ESCAP</p> <p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP [video message]</li> <li>• H. E. Mr. Daniyar Amangeldiev, Minister of Economy and Commerce of Kyrgyzstan</li> <li>• H. E. Mr. Abzal Abdikarimov, Vice-Minister of National Economy of Kazakhstan</li> <li>• Ms. Gwi Yeop Son, Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, United Nations Development Coordination Office (UNDCO) [video message]</li> </ul> <p><b>Overview of the Subregional Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Michiko Enomoto, Deputy Head/ Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia, ESCAP</li> </ul>
10:00 to 10:15	<b>Group Photo</b>
10:15 to 11:30	<p><b>Session 2: “Eradicating extreme poverty for all” (SDG 1)</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Michaela Friberg-Storey, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Kazakhstan</p> <p><b>Part I</b>  <b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Tazeen Fasih, Lead Economist and Program Leader in Human Development Sector, World Bank</li> <li>• Ms. Arzu Taghiyeva, Head of Sector, Sustainable Development Statistics Department, State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan</li> <li>• Ms. Bakytgul Khambar, Director of the Secretariat for SDG, Economic Research Institute, Ministry of National Economy, Kazakhstan</li> <li>• Ms. Aisulu Amanova, Head of Strategic Development Department, Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Kyrgyzstan</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A Session</b></p>

11:30 to 12:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>
12:00 to 13:15	<p><b>Session 2: “Eradicating extreme poverty for all” (SDG 1)</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Michiko Enomoto, Deputy Head/ Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia, ESCAP</p> <p><b>Part II</b>  <b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Kazutoshi Chatani, Senior Employment Specialist, Country Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, International Labour Organization (ILO)</li> <li>• Mr. Kamoliddin Boziev, Head of Department on Regional Development and Monitoring the Implementation of National Program, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan</li> <li>• Ms. Elita Shumskaya, Chief Specialist, Strategic and Sustainable Development Department, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Turkmenistan</li> <li>• Mr. Humoyunmirzo Yusufboev, Chief Specialist, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Uzbekistan</li> <li>• Ms. Olga Djanaeva, Director, Rural Women’s NGO “ALGA”, Kyrgyzstan</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A Session</b></p>
13:15 to 14:30	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<p><b>Afternoon</b>  14:30 to 15:30</p>	<p><b>Session 3: “End hunger and all forms of malnutrition” (SDG 2)</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Olga Djanaeva, Director, Rural Women’s NGO “ALGA”, Kyrgyzstan</p> <p><b>Part I</b>  <b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Rostislav Lenchuk, Second Secretary, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation</li> <li>• Ms. Yutong Li, Head, Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM), ESCAP</li> <li>• Ms. Anna-Maria Chkoniya, Coordinator of the Technical Assistance Fund, Eurasian Development Bank (EDB)</li> <li>• Mr. Aziz Nurbekov, Professor, Tashkent State Agrarian University, Uzbekistan</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A Session</b></p>
15:30 to 16:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>
16:00 to 17:15	<p><b>Session 3: “End hunger and all forms of malnutrition” (SDG 2)</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Olga Djanaeva, Director, Rural Women’s NGO “ALGA”, Kyrgyzstan</p> <p><b>Part II</b>  <b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Keigo Obara, Food Security Officer, Sub-regional Office for Central Asia of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)</li> <li>• Ms. Mariam Jorjadze, Director, the Biological Farming Association Elkana, Georgia</li> <li>• Mr. Erkinbek Kozhoev, Chairperson, Union of Water User Association, Kyrgyzstan</li> <li>• Mr. Nizami Kazimov, Head Agronomist, Agro Dairy, Azerbaijan</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A Session</b></p>

<b>2 November 2023</b>	
<b>Morning</b> 09:00 to 11:20	<p><b>Session 4: “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts” (SDG 13)</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Aidai Kurmanova, Head, Subregional Office for Central Asia, United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)</p> <p><b>Part I</b>  <b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Aneta Nikolova, Economic Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP</li> <li>• Mr. Binu Parthan, Head of Region, International Renewable Energy Agency</li> <li>• Mr. David Advadze, Head of Sustainable Development Support Division, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia</li> <li>• Mr. Andrey Panteleev, Head of Section, Department of Macroeconomic Policy, Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC)</li> <li>• Mr. Albrecht Conrad, Managing Director, and Head of Directorate of Sustainability, EDB</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A Session</b></p> <p><b>Part II</b>  <b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Dilovarsho Dustzoda, Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Program Manager, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)</li> <li>• Ms. Barbara Janusz-Pawletta, Professor for International Cooperation, Institute of Natural Resources, Kazakh-German University and UNESCO Chairholder for water management in Central Asia, Kazakhstan</li> <li>• Ms. Marine Voskanyan, Coordinator, Association of Young Environmental Lawyers and Economists, Armenia</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A Session</b></p>
11:20 to 11:50	<b>Coffee Break</b>
11:50 to 13:10	<p><b>Session 5: “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels” (SDG 16)</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Aidai Mambetalieva, Director, Babushka Adoption Foundation, Kyrgyzstan</p> <p><b>Part I</b>  <b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Sabine Henning, Head of Section, Social Development Division, ESCAP</li> <li>• Mr. Dumitru Lipcanu, Deputy Representative for Central Asia, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)</li> <li>• Ms. Lazzat Ramazanova, Deputy Chairwoman of the National Commission on Women's Affairs, Family and Demographic Policy under the President of Kazakhstan</li> <li>• Ms. Nurzhamal Iminova, Development Director, Public Union “Association of Women with Disabilities Shyrak”, Kazakhstan</li> <li>• Ms. Aidai Mambetalieva, Director, Babushka Adoption Foundation, Kyrgyzstan</li> </ul>

	<b>Q&amp;A Session</b>
13:10 to 14:30	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<b>Afternoon</b> 14:30 to 15:30	<p><b>Part II</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Aidai Mambetalieva, Director, Babushka Adoption Foundation, Kyrgyzstan</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Tattu Mambetalieva, Director, Civil Initiative on Internet Policy, Kyrgyzstan</li> <li>• Ms. Ashita Mittal, Regional Representative, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Office for Central Asia</li> <li>• Ms. Gulsara Sulaimanova, Head of External Trade Statistics Division of the National Statistical Committee of Kyrgyzstan</li> <li>• Ms. Esma Gumberidze, Grace Initiative Youth Led Board Member, Georgia</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A Session</b></p>
15:40 to 17:30	<p><b>Session 6: “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development” (SDG 17)</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Askar Japparkulov, Director of Department of Macroeconomic Policy, EEC</p> <p><b>Part I</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Askar Japparkulov, Director of Department of Macroeconomic Policy, EEC</li> <li>• Mr. Husnu Tekin, Director for Human Resources and Sustainable Development Directorate, Economic Cooperation Organization</li> <li>• Ms. Soo Hyun Kim, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade, Investment, and Innovation Division, ESCAP</li> <li>• Ms. Leila Sagymbayeva, Director of the Department for Partnerships and Regional Projects, Kazakhstan Agency for International Development “KazAID”</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A Session</b></p> <p><b>Part II</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Ling Zhang, Deputy Secretary-General, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measure in Asia (CICA)</li> <li>• Ms. Dinara Seijarova, Country Manager, UN Global Compact, Kazakhstan</li> <li>• Ms. Aigul Kussaliyeva, Deputy CEO, Astana International Financial Center (AIFC) Green Finance Centre, Kazakhstan</li> <li>• Mr. Rustam Eshonhujayev, Country Economist, Islamic Development Bank Regional Hub Almaty, Kazakhstan</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A Session</b></p>
17:30 to 17:40	<b>Evaluation</b>
17:40 to 17:50	<p><b>Closing Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing remarks by Mr. Nikolay Pomoshchnikov, Head, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia, ESCAP</li> </ul>
18:00 to 19:00	<b>Networking Coffee</b>

## Annex II: List of Participants

### Member States

#### Armenia

- Ms. Julieta Tavaqalyan, Head, Division of UN and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia

#### Azerbaijan

- Ms. Arzu Taghiyeva, Head, Sector of Regional Statistics of the Department of Sustainable Development Statistics, State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Mr. Toghrul Mammadov, Leading Consultant, Sustainable Development and Social Policy Department, Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Ms. Khatira Mehdiyeva, Head, International Relations Section, State Maritime and Port Agency under the Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan

#### Georgia

- Mr. David Advadze, Head of Sustainable Development Support Division of the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Policies and Sustainable Development Department, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development
- Mr. George Shoshitashvili, Counselor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

#### Kazakhstan

- H.E. Mr. Abzal Abdikarimov, Vice-Minister, Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ms. Nurgul Zhannazarova, Director, Social Policy Department, Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ms. Bakytgul Khambar, Director, Secretariat for Sustainable Development Goals, Institute of Economic Research
- Ms. Lazzat Ramazanova, Deputy Chairwoman, National Commission on Women's Affairs, Family and Demographic Policy under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Mr. Nurlan Sakenov, Adviser to the Minister, Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Almaty
- Ms. Leila Sagymbayeva, Director, Department for Partnerships and Regional Projects, Kazakhstan Agency for International Development (KazAID)

- Ms. Assel Yerkin, Senior Manager, Department for Partnerships and Regional Projects, Kazakhstan Agency for International Development (KazAID)
- Mr. Aidar Kuatbayev, Director, Department of Space Systems, Ministry of Digital Developments, Innovations and Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan

### **Kyrgyzstan**

- H. E. Mr. Daniyar Amangeldiev, Minister of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Ms. Aisuluu Amanova, Head, Strategic Planning Department, Ministry of Economy, and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Ms. Victoria Kudaibergenova, Expert, International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Economy, and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Ms. Gulsara Sulaimanova – Head of External Trade Statistics Division of the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic

### **Russian Federation**

- Mr. Oleg Shamanov, Minister-Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to ESCAP, Bangkok, Thailand
- Mr. Rostislav Lenchuk, Second Secretary, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

### **Tajikistan**

- Mr. Kamoliddin Boziev, Head, Department on Regional Development and Monitoring the Implementation of National Program, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Mr. Hasan Qurbonzoda, Chief Specialist, Department for Strategic Planning and Reform, Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan

### **Turkmenistan**

- Ms. Bagtygul Gurbanova, Head, Division of Methodology of Statistics, State Committee of Statistics of Turkmenistan
- Ms. Elita Shumskaya, Chief Specialist, Department for Strategic and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan

### **Uzbekistan**

- Mr. Oybek Juraev, Chief Specialist, Department of Macroeconomic Policy, Ministry of Economy, and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan

- Mr. Humoyunmirzo Yusufboev, Chief Specialist, Division of the Monitoring of Implementation of SDGs, Department of Macroeconomic Policy, Ministry of Economy, and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan

## **Private Sector, Academia & Think Tanks**

### **Astana International Finance Center (AIFC) Green Finance Centre, Kazakhstan**

- Ms. Aigul Kussaliyeva, Deputy CEO, Director for Sustainable Development

### **Almaty Management University, Kazakhstan**

- Mr. Ainar Nurgaliev, Director, Center of Sustainable Development and ESG
- Ms. Aurora Díaz-Soloaga, Senior Lecturer

### **CAREC Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia**

- Mr. Dilovarsho Dustzoda, Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Program Manager

### **Institution “Center of Regional Science and Development,” Kyrgyzstan**

- Ms. Aijan Musaeva

### **Kazakh-German University, Kazakhstan**

- Ms. Barbara Janusz-Pawletta, Professor for International Cooperation, Institute of Natural Resources and UNESCO Chairholder for water management in Central Asia

### **KIMEP University, Kazakhstan**

- Ms. Elmira Bogoviyeva, Associated Professor
- Ms. Marzhan Berniyazova, Accreditation Manager
- Ms. Hala Abdelgaffar, Faculty manager

### **Narxoz Univesity, Kazakhstan**

- Mr. Brendan Duprey, Sustainable Kazakhstan Research Institute
- Ms. Olena Bondarenko, Project Director

### **Tashkent State Agrarian University, Uzbekistan**

- Mr. Aziz Nurbekov, Professor



## **Non-profit associations and public foundations**

### **Agro Dairy, Azerbaijan**

- Mr. Nizami Kazimov, Head Agronomist

### **Association of Young Environmental Lawyers and Economists, Armenia**

- Ms. Marine Voskanyan, Coordinator

### **Biological Farming Association Elkana, Georgia**

- Ms. Mariam Jorjadze, Director

### **Babushka Adoption Foundation, Kyrgyzstan**

- Ms. Aidai Mambetalieva, Director

### **Civil Initiative on Internet Policy**

- Ms. Tattu Mambetalieva, Director

### **Eco Accord, Russia**

- Ms. Tuyana Norboeva, Project Manager

### **GRACE Initiative, Georgia**

- Ms. Esma Gumberidze, YouthLED Board Member

### **Public Association “The Investment Round Table,” Kyrgyzstan**

- Ms. Savia Hasanova, Executive Director, Economic Expert

### **Public Union “Association of Women with Disabilities Shyrak,” Kazakhstan**

- Ms. Nurzhamal Iminova, Development Director

### **Rural Women’s NGO “ALGA,” Kyrgyzstan**

- Ms. Olga Djanaeva, Director

### **Union of Water User Association, Kyrgyzstan**

- Mr. Erkinbek Kozhoyev, Chairperson

## **International/ Regional Organizations**

### **Economic Cooperation Organization**

- Mr. Husnu Tekin, Director for Human Resources and Sustainable Development Directorate

### **Eurasian Development Bank**

- Mr. Albrecht Conrad, Managing Director, and Head of Directorate of Sustainability
- Mr. Leonid Efimov, Head of International Relations, and Protocol Division
- Ms. Anna-Maria Chkoniya, Coordinator of the Technical Assistant Fund

### **Eurasian Economic Commission**

- Mr. Askar Japparkulov, Director of Department of Macroeconomic Policy
- Mr. Andrey Panteleev, Head of Section, Department of Macroeconomic Policy

### **International Renewable Energy Agency**

- Mr. Binu Parthan, Head of Region
- Ms. Joong Yeop Lee, Programme Officer

### **Islamic Development Bank Regional Hub Almaty, Kazakhstan**

- Mr. Edzwan Anwar, Operations Team Leader – Energy
- Mr. Rustam Eshonhujayev, Country Economist

### **Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measure in Asia (CICA)**

- Ms. Chi Fang, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Ugur Turan, Expert in Environmental Dimension

### **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**

- Ms. Elizaveta Chernysheva, Expert

### **World Bank**

- Ms. Tazeen Fasih, Lead Economist and Program Leader in Human Development sector

# **United Nations**

## **UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

- Ms. Aidai Kurmanova, Head, Sub-Regional Office for Central Asia
- Mr. Olzhas Atymtayev, National Programme Officer, Sub-Regional Office for Central Asia

## **UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES**

- Mr. Dumitru Lipcanu, Deputy Representative for Central Asia

## **UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME**

- Ms. Ashita Mittal, Regional Representative for Central Asia

## **UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

- Mr. Batyr Khadzhiyev, Economic Affairs Officer

## **UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS**

- Mr. Vlastimil Samek, Representative and Head of the United Nations Information Office in Kazakhstan

## **UN DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION OFFICE**

- Ms. Gwi Yeop Son, Regional Director for Europe, and Central Asia

## **UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT**

- Ms. Dinara Seijaparova, Country Manager, Kazakhstan

## **UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)**

- Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary
- Mr. Nikolay Pomoshchnikov, Head of Subregional Office for North and Central Asia,
- Ms. Michiko Enomoto, Deputy Head/ Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia
- Ms. Sabine Henning, Head of Section, Social Development Division
- Ms. Yutong Li, Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM)
- Ms. Juliet Nicole Braslow, Sustainable Development Officer, Office of the Executive Secretary
- Ms. Natalja Wehmer, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division

- Ms. Chiara Amato, Economic Affairs Officer, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia/ Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division
- Mr. Channarith Meng, Economic Affairs Officer, Office of the Executive Secretary
- Ms. Sara Libera Zanetti, 2030 Agenda and VNR Specialist, Office of the Executive Secretary
- Mr. Madhubashini Fernando Economic Affairs Officer, Office of the Executive Secretary
- Ms. Soo Hyun Kim, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade, Investment, and Innovation Division
- Ms. Aneta Nikolova, Economic Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division
- Mr. Shaotong Zhang, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia
- Ms. Elvira Mynbayeva, Programme Management Officer, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia
- Ms. Ainur Dyussyubekova, Administrative Assistant, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia
- Ms. Adina Alibayeva, Programme Management Assistant, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia
- Mr. Rauan Zainov, Team Assistant, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia
- Ms. Anahita Roy, Intern, Office of the Executive Secretary
- Mr. Arman Grants, Intern, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia
- Mr. Evgeny Gurin, Intern, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia

## **FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION**

- Mr. Keigo Obara, Food Security Officer, Sub-regional Office for Central Asia
- Ms. Aizhan Karabayeva, Project Coordinator
- Mr. Makhmud Shaumarov, Regional Program Coordinator for the CACILM-2
- Mr Sardar Abdyshev, Regional M&E Specialist of the CACILM-2 Program
- Ms. Liliya Mussina, Senior Expert of Agricultural Policy

## **INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION**

- Mr. Kazutoshi Chatani, Senior Employment Specialist, Country Office for Eastern Europe, and Central Asia

## **UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR OFFICE**

- Ms. Michaela Friberg-Storey, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Kazakhstan
- Mr. Owais Parray, Development Coordination Officer, Economist, UN Resident Coordinator Office for Tajikistan