



UNECE

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

TAJIKISTAN

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 Tajikistan 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 Tajikistan is party, aims to improve road safety by defining unified traffic rules and signs and signals to be applied among its 78, and 66 respective contracting parties. Countries party to the Convention have significantly lower road related deaths and injuries.

Tajikistan benefitted from a recent workshop on *National Road Safety Policy development – trends and challenges* (Tbilisi, 2018), that strengthened national capacity to define national road safety policy and improve road safety situation.

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

With a view to Tajikistan acceding to the *Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution*, which focuses on reducing key harmful pollutants and setting strict reduction targets for their release, UNECE is helping the country analyse the national legislation on air quality management and formulate recommendations on the steps towards ratification. UNECE has also assisted Tajikistan in developing its air pollutant emission inventory. The capacity-building programme under the Convention also contributes to SDG targets 11.6 and 12.4, among others.

The *Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA)*, is an initiative supporting national efforts for improving air quality and protecting public health and ecosystems, which was endorsed at the 8th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 2016). This mechanism aims to foster technical cooperation and help countries to access funding sources for further projects.



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

Tajikistan is part of the project *Implementation of national water and health targets in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan through National Policy Dialogues* supported by Finland, supporting the country in setting and implementing its national targets on water and health with the aim of reducing outbreaks of the water-borne diseases, thus contributing to reach the SDG 3 on good health and well-being. Furthermore, the Protocol can thereby translate and operationalize the achievement of SDG 6 in the national context, depending on the country capacity and needs. The national targets already 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

Tajikistan is part of UNECE's project "*Capacity-building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia (phase 3)*" (2017–2020). The project aims to strengthen 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, and subregional capacity-building events to "train the trainers" on dam safety.

UNECE facilitates long-term cooperation between Afghanistan and Tajikistan on hydrology and the environment. Annual bilateral meetings countries and a bilateral Technical Task Force on hydrology and the environment help to develop and coordinate cooperation activities. The project led to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the exchange of hydrological data and information relating to the Panj-Amu Darya river basin for the period of 2015–2017. The next phase of the project focuses on implementing the existing instruments for collaboration and in establishing a wider-ranging MoU on environmental issues between the two countries. These activities are conducive to better management of environmental resources, better preparedness for natural disasters, improved planning for climate change adaptation and peace and stability in the region.

Tajikistan is part of the *National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)*, jointly facilitated by UNECE and the OECD. The NPD/IWRM is an instrument of the EU Water Initiative, which promotes a discussion among all relevant stakeholders on developing the most appropriate policies for the water sector. NPDs are platforms where key national stakeholders meet regularly to discuss and advance policy reforms on IWRM, including transboundary rivers basin management. In this framework, UNECE supports the government in applying international standards and practices to water management. A key achievement of the NPD was its contribution to the development of the Water Sector Reform Programme 2016-2025 for Tajikistan. The programme was adopted by the Government in December 2015 and implementation is underway.

Tajikistan participated actively in the assessment of interlinkages, trade-offs and benefits in the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in the Syr Darya River Basin (2014-2017). The aim was to foster transboundary cooperation and to help optimize resource use in order to improve sustainability, efficiency and resource security in the riparian countries. This involved joint identification of intersectoral issues in the management of water, land, energy and ecosystem resources and determined possible actions related to information, governance, policy and economic instruments, infrastructure and international cooperation. These actions and recommendations developed with a broad set of stakeholders from the riparian countries are promoted in policy processes in the region beyond water management, including in cooperation with the energy sector.



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

Target 7.1. By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services

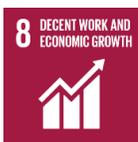
The Government of Tajikistan requested UNECE to provide technical assistance to help assess the coal utilisation potential for Tajikistan. At the request of the government, in 2017 UNECE prepared a review of global best practices on coal-to-liquid technologies/projects. As a result of UNECE work in this area, Tajikistan is conducting policy and institutional reforms in the energy sector, aimed at opening parts of the sector to privatisation; improving transparency, efficiency and involvement of private sector in the sector; raising the level of electricity tariffs toward full cost recovery; and diversifying energy resources.

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

Through the recently concluded project *Promoting Renewable Energy Investments for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Development*, UNECE helped Tajikistan 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.

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

Tajikistan is part of the UNECE project *Improving national capacities of Central Asian countries to harmonize 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

In 2017, *Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context* for Central Asian countries were revised to serve as a tool for the Central Asian countries for the practical implementation of transboundary EIA procedures in accordance with the Convention while also taking account of their subregional and national contexts and national legislation. The preparatory process has brought the Central Asian countries together, facilitating a common understanding and dialogue at the subregional level concerning the EIA procedure that helps to ensure sustainable development and prevention of environmental threats – that do not respect national borders – from planned economic activities.

Tajikistan is considering joining the *Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention)*. UNECE facilitates awareness raising and capacity-building activities to increase knowledge 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. Since March 2018, UNECE assists Tajikistan in preparing recommendation on how to align its national legislation with the provisions of the Convention. The work includes a short review of the national legislation, preparations of the recommendations and discussion of those recommendations as well as the existing practice of the implementation of the Convention by its Parties.



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 higher transport efficiency. The TIR and Harmonization Conventions significantly contribute to the facilitation of international transport and trade across the borders of its 74 and 58 respective contracting parties, including Tajikistan.

The *UNECE Euro Asian Transport Links (EATL)* project identified the main Euro-Asian road and rail routes for priority development and cooperation, and promotes the removal of physical and administrative bottlenecks in inland transport between Europe and Asia. As one of the 38 members of EATL, Tajikistan benefits from UNECE coordination and facilitation in the development of infrastructural projects.

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

Tajikistan is part of the Assistance Programme under the *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 Tajikistan in enhancing industrial safety and, thus, protecting human health and the environment. The project will result in enhanced capacities for assessment of industrial safety and submission of a comprehensive national action plan to address gaps and deficiencies identified through a self-assessment, and thus

will support Tajikistan in progressing towards the Convention's implementation and possible future accession. The project will also contribute to enhancing 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.

Target 9.5. Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, particularly developing countries, including by 2030 encouraging innovation and increasing the number of R&D workers per one million people by x% and public and private R&D spending

Target 9B. Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities



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

The recently concluded project *Strengthening national capacities for sustainable housing and urban development in countries with economies in transition* (2014-2017) increased capacities for developing and implementing policies on sustainable housing and urban development in Armenia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. UNECE supports the implementation of national action plans on sustainable housing and urban development developed in the framework of the project.

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

Tajikistan has been actively engaged in the *Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)*. Established in 1998, SPECA improves

cooperation in Central Asia, Afghanistan and Azerbaijan and supports integration of the countries into the world economy. The SPECA Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity is a regional platform to cooperate on transport infrastructure development, connectivity, border-crossing facilitation and road safety, in order to enhance the efficiency of regional transport systems. Regular capacity-building activities improve regional transport connectivity and inland transport competitiveness, and strengthens national capacities to design and implement a harmonized legal framework and implement an evidence-based policy for inland transport and the implementation of transport-related SDGs.



Ensure sustainable production and consumption patterns

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

Activities reported under SDG 6, 7, 8 and 15 also have a direct contribution to SDG12.

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 capacity-building, training and assessment materials for improving sustainable agricultural development.

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 *Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers* (Protocol on PRTRs) to the *UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters* (Aarhus Convention) supports responsible consumption and production by providing a legal framework for ensuring that the related processes are achieved and handled in transparent, inclusive and participatory manner. These principles are key for the implementation of all SDGs, whether directly referred to or otherwise.

UNECE provides Tajikistan with continuous capacity building on the implementation of the Protocol, through developing expertise of the country's diverse professionals at region-wide thematic task force meetings (annually), subregional workshops and global round tables on PRTRs, 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's experts with regard to effective access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters, for example, sound chemical management, in fostering access to information on emissions and transfers of wastes. UNECE also coordinates numerous capacity-building activities with partner organizations. Tajikistan has been actively engaged in the work under the Convention and its Protocol and established 7 Aarhus Centres across the country to support implementation of these treaties.

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. BIG-E operationalizes the Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy, which was endorsed by the Ministers at their 8th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Batumi, Georgia, in 2016.

BIG-E remains open for more commitments until 2030. Tajikistan has yet to join the initiative.



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its i

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

Activities reported under SDG 6, 7, 8, 11 and 12 also have a direct contribution to SDG13.



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

Tajikistan participates in the project on the *preparation of the State of Forests in the Caucasus and Central Asia*. In this region, most countries are ‘low forest cover countries’, where forests fulfil recognized and valuable protective functions such as freshwater renewal and prevention of wind and mudslide erosion, and desertification, but their economic and social functions are often not fully recognized. Because of the specificity of the region’s forests and scarce source data, the forests and forest sector in the Caucasus and Central Asia have not received appropriate attention in the global or regional studies published thus far. Therefore, the report, which is being developed under this project, will present the richness of the region’s forests, their importance and services they provide as well as challenges that are faced by the forest sector in the region.

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

A Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in the Caucasus and Central Asia was held in Astana in June 2018. Organized by UNECE/FAO in cooperation with IUCN, this was the first 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. Tajikistan took part in the meeting and 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

UNECE is strengthening the capacity of the *National Trade Facilitation Committee* (NTFC) to help Tajikistan develop and implement strategic trade policies following its accession to the WTO in 2013. It is also helping the country fulfil its commitments under the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation by providing training to NTFC members on international standards for trade facilitation and trade facilitation measures.

Tajikistan was part of UNECE's project *Supporting the Removal of Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in the Republic of Tajikistan*. This project assisted Governments to implement key recommendations in the area of transparency, chiefly by increasing private sector's participation in trade policy-making. The Government has prepared a draft law for establishing a national trade facilitation committee (NTFC). This project strengthens the capacity of the NTFC to develop and implement strategic trade policies. It also helps the country fulfil its commitments under the WTO Agreement on Trade

Facilitation by providing training to NTFC members on international standards for trade facilitation and trade facilitation measures.

Tajikistan is a beneficiary 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 their 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 June 2017, UNECE published the third *Environmental Performance Review of Tajikistan*. The review identified deforestation, diseases associated with contaminated food and water, and air pollution from road transport as the most pressing environmental issues for the country. The timing of this review coincided with the finalization of work on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It described progress made by Tajikistan in achieving MDGs. It made suggestions for strengthening efforts towards a comprehensive and systemic response to sustainable development challenges and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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

Tajikistan was part of the recently concluded project *Strengthening capacity of CIS countries to advance their use of public-private partnerships (PPPs) to achieve the SDGs*. The project provides capacity-building and policy advisory services to facilitate the implementation of PPP standards and therefore improve their delivery.

UNECE provides Tajikistan 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 the country's diverse 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. Tajikistan has been actively engaged in the work under the Convention and its Protocol and established 7 Aarhus Centres across the country to support implementation of these treaties.

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

Tajikistan was part of the recently concluded project “*Strengthening national capacity in most vulnerable UNECE countries for sustainable development of statistics*” The project enhanced national capacities for developing statistics in compliance with international standards. It built on Global Assessments (GAs) of national statistical systems conducted in beneficiary countries (2013 for Tajikistan). The GAs provide a comprehensive analysis of the institutional, organizational and technical capacity of countries to produce statistics and suggest concrete recommendations for the sustainable development of national statistical capacities. UNECE is providing consistent support to beneficiary countries to address the observed statistical gaps to allow for better monitoring of economic, social and environmental reforms.

Tajikistan is part of the project “*Improved environmental monitoring and assessment in support of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in South-Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus* (2018-2021). The project is strengthening the capacities of national environmental authorities and statistical agencies to collect and produce required data and to use environmental indicators in accordance with the *Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS)* principles. It aims to improve the accessibility and use of regularly updated and high quality environmental indicators, within the framework of SEIS, to respond to international indicator-based reporting obligations, including monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The SEIS aims to improve the collection, exchange, dissemination and use of environmental data and information to facilitate regular environmental assessments and reporting in the UNECE member States.

UNECE Technical Cooperation in Tajikistan

UNECE Technical Cooperation
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Telephone: +41 (0)22 917 44 44
Fax: +41 (0)22 917 05 05
E-mail: info.ece@unece.org
Website: <http://www.unece.org/website>