



# UNECE

## UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

TURKMENISTAN



## 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 Turkmenistan 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 Turkmenistan 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.

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

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 8<sup>th</sup> 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***

***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.*

Turkmenistan participates in 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 was launched to involve all relevant stakeholders in 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 of Turkmenistan to apply international standards and practices to water management. Among key achievements of work under the NPD, is the development and adoption by the Parliament of the new National Water Code.

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

Based on the successful work related to Turkmenistan's accession to the Convention in 2012, UNECE is helping the country to improve its legislative frameworks with a view to eventually acceding to the UNECE and WHO Regional Office for Europe *Protocol on Water and Health*. Accession to the Protocol would support country's achievement of the SDG 6 targets 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 on access to water and sanitation, improving water quality and increasing water-use efficiency.

Turkmenistan 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.



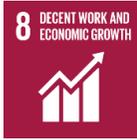
## Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

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

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

Turkmenistan 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 UN Framework Classification (UNFC) of energy and mineral resources. Through the 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***

*Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context* for Central Asian countries have been revised to serve as a tool for the Central Asian countries for the practical implementation of transboundary EIA procedures in accordance with the Convention while also taking account of their sub-regional and national contexts and national legislation. The preparatory process has brought the Central Asian countries together, including Turkmenistan, 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.

Turkmenistan is considering joining *the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context* (Espoo Convention). UNECE is increasing 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.

The revision of *The Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian Countries*, initially drafted in 2007, was completed in 2017 by the UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention with administrative and substantive support of the Central Asia Regional Environmental Center. Updated Guidelines reflect the recommendations and comments provided by representatives of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in writing and during three sub-regional workshops. During the EIA procedure the Party of origin in consultation with the affected Parties may consider, among others, the impacts of the proposed activity on the climate change and it may develop measures to mitigate such adverse transboundary impacts at the national and transboundary level.



## **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 *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, Turkmenistan benefits from UNECE coordination and facilitation in the development of infrastructural projects.

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 Turkmenistan.

***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***

Turkmenistan is part of the project on “Strengthening Industrial Safety in Central Asia through the implementation of and accession to the Convention” (2016-2019) under *UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents*. 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 project provides support to Turkmenistan in enhancing industrial safety and, thus, protecting human health and the environment. It 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 Turkmenistan 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.



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

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

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

Turkmenistan 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*

*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.

UNECE provides Turkmenistan 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. UNECE also coordinates numerous capacity-building activities with partner organizations. Turkmenistan has been actively engaged in the work under the Convention and its Protocol and established the Aarhus Centre to support implementation of the Convention. Due to their cross-cutting nature, the Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs support country's efforts in the implementation of all SDGs and, in particular, SDG 12.6.

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 at the 8<sup>th</sup> Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Batumi, Georgia, in 2016. BIG-E remains open for more commitments until 2030



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

### *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***

Turkmenistan 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 15.3. By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world***



**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***

Turkmenistan is part of the UNECE's 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 countries to implement commitments under the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) that entered into force on 22 February 2017, by providing training, capacity-building and networking activities for policy makers in trade.

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

Turkmenistan was part of the recently concluded UNECE's 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 Turkmenistan 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 capacity-building activities with partner organizations.

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

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

Turkmenistan 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. UNECE is providing consistent support to address statistical gaps to allow for better monitoring of economic, social and environmental reforms.



# UNECE Technical Cooperation in Turkmenistan

**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](mailto:info.ece@unece.org)**  
**Website: <http://www.unece.org/website>**

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