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Environmental performance reviews

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The Fourth Environmental Performance Review of Tajikistan: draft recommendations¹

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The document presents the recommendations of the Fourth Environmental Performance Review of Tajikistan agreed upon by the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews at its meeting held in Geneva on 9–12 September 2024.

The Committee is invited to adopt the recommendations.

Chapter 1: Legal, policy and institutional framework

Recommendation 1.1:

The Government should:

- (a) *Undertake a review of existing laws and, as appropriate, prepare revised legislation on the protection of air, soil and fauna, waste management and forestry;*
- (b) *Promote the completion and adoption of the environmental code, including provisions on strategic environmental assessment;*
- (c) *Prepare an amendment to the Law on Public Associations to foster the development of civil society;*
- (d) *Update environmental standards for all media, considering capacities to monitor their application.*

Recommendation 1.2:

The Government should:

- (a) *Ensure that the financial resources for the implementation of environment- and climate change-related programmes and actions plans are secured at the time of their adoption;*
- (b) *Ensure the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade and the Agency of Statistics have sufficient resources to monitor progress on key strategic documents and the Sustainable Development Goals;*
- (c) *Adopt a national water strategy, including a wastewater management programme, and a revised forestry strategy.*

Recommendation 1.3:

The authorized state body for environmental protection should publish comprehensive reports on its website on the implementation of strategies, programmes and plans on environmental matters.

¹ This document was not formally edited.

Recommendation 1.4:

The Government should:

- (a) *Propose that the Committee for Environmental Protection become a ministry for climate action and environmental protection;*
- (b) *Provide for training of all civil servants on environmental and climate issues;*
- (c) *Encourage the development of informal networks between civil servants in the authorized state body for environmental protection and line ministries.*

Chapter 2: Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms

Recommendation 2.1:

The Government should provide public access to the following information sources:

- (a) *The Single State Registry of licenses and permits by the State Committee on Investments and Management of State Property;*
- (b) *Annual reports of inspection bodies provided by the Council for Coordination of Activity of Inspection Authorities or at least summaries of these reports.*

Recommendation 2.2:

The Committee for Environmental Protection should:

- (a) *Revise the determination criteria of the risk level of economic entities for inspection purposes, taking into account the significance of their impact on the environment;*
- (b) *Use data from reports on environmental impact assessments and the results of the procedure on environmental impact assessments as a basis for planning inspection activities;*
- (c) *Enhance environmental supervision of industrial facilities to ensure efficient enforcement of environmental requirements.*

Recommendation 2.3:

The Committee for Environmental Protection, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population, should review and update the following documents and indicators:

- (a) *Implementing regulations and guidance documents for the definition of air emission standards and the definition of regulated economic entities, air emissions and wastewater discharges;*
- (b) *Ambient quality indicators for surface water and groundwater;*
- (c) *Implementing regulations and guidance documents for the calculation of environmental damage resulting from environmental non-compliance.*

Recommendation 2.4:

The Committee for Environmental Protection should identify approaches to ensure environmental compliance by using citizen environmental monitoring and voluntary compliance promotion instruments, and encouraging:

- (a) *NGO and citizen participation in environmental compliance monitoring, identifying priority areas and mechanisms for taking measures in response to such complaints and allegations;*
- (b) *Promotion of publicly available voluntary environmental and sustainability reporting by regulated entities, including as one of the criteria for determining their risk level when planning inspections.*

Recommendation 2.5:

The Government should establish stricter sanctions for violations of environmental requirements and ensure that penalties are effective, proportionate and dissuasive.

Recommendation 2.6:

The Committee for Environmental Protection should continue the process of aligning the scope and modalities of procedures on environmental impact assessment (EIA) and state environmental expertise with international benchmarks by:

- (a) Strengthening the involvement of competent authorities in the screening and scoping steps of EIA;*
- (b) Enforcing the EIA procedure in a stricter and more transparent manner;*
- (c) Developing materials that would help the regulated community to better understand procedures on EIA and state environmental expertise and comply with them;*
- (d) Detailing the transboundary aspects of EIA in the legislation;*
- (e) Reassessing the costs and benefits of accession to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context with a view to completing the accession process.*

Chapter 3: Greening the economy and financing environmental protection

Recommendation 3.1:

The Government should:

- (a) Rationalize the scope of environmental, resource and pollution charges, ensuring alignment with marginal abatement costs for households and enterprises;*
- (b) Reform utility tariffs for households and firms, moving towards effective cost-recovery while protecting vulnerable population groups;*
- (c) Reform water and waste tariffs for agriculture to encourage efficient use of resources while addressing poverty implications.*

Recommendation 3.2:

The Government should:

- (a) Examine the possibility for creating new or expanding existing funds dedicated to environmental protection and ensure that the Committee for Environmental Protection has predictable and adequate long-term financing;*
- (b) Integrate the budget funding for the Committee for Environmental Protection into the Medium-Term Expenditure Planning;*
- (c) Improve monitoring and impact evaluation of environmental funds in the Committee for Environmental Protection.*

Recommendation 3.3:

The Government should improve:

- (a) Alignment of fiscal and investment policies with environmental goals;*
- (b) Mainstreaming of environmental protection and resource management considerations into sectoral economic policies and plans;*
- (c) The capacities of policymakers to integrate cross-sectoral environmental considerations into strategic planning.*

Chapter 4: Environmental monitoring, information and science

Recommendation 4.1:

The Government should develop and adopt a state environmental monitoring programme and ensure that:

- (a) The monitoring networks receive adequate funding and potential for expansion;*
- (b) The number of automated air monitoring stations is increased in the country and they are adequality maintained;*
- (c) The inclusion of parameters with high relevance to public health into all monitoring networks and their coverage by all monitoring stations;*

- (d) *The continuous provision of modern laboratory equipment, chemicals and calibration gases that facilitate sample analyses for the Hydrometeorology Agency and the Centre for Analytical and Diagnostic Control, especially with regard to soil analysis.*

Recommendation 4.2:

The Agency of Statistics, in cooperation with the Committee for Environmental Protection, should:

- (a) *Continue to introduce the electronic reporting system for environmental indicators of the ECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators;*
(b) *Produce and publish comprehensive indicator-based state-of-the-environment reports every three to five years;*
(c) *Continue the development of the national Sustainable Development Goal indicator online platform;*
(d) *Reinstate reporting on surface water quality and pollution.*

Recommendation 4.3:

The Government should ensure that:

- (a) *All governmental bodies collecting environmental information adopt the principles of the Shared Environmental Information System;*
(b) *Historical data on environmental monitoring are digitalized;*
(c) *An integrated environmental database, accessible free of charge, is established.*

Recommendation 4.4:

The Government should:

- (a) *Promote reporting on sustainable practices by enterprises, by providing the corresponding legal framework;*
(b) *Introduce legal provisions for, and eventually establish, a pollutant release and transfer register.*

Recommendation 4.5:

The Government should:

- (a) *Establish an interagency science and environmental policy platform to support evidence-based decision-making for environmental protection;*
(b) *Continue to foster international research cooperation;*
(c) *Increase the budget for research on environment, sustainable development and greening the economy, and ensure the regular statistical reporting of indicators for creating scientific capacity (Sustainable Development Goal indicators 9.5.1 and 9.5.2).*

Chapter 5: Public participation and education for sustainable development

Recommendation 5.1:

The Government should:

- (a) *Strengthen the work of the intergovernmental working group and mandate it to develop an action plan on implementation of the Aarhus Convention and to coordinate the country's efforts in this area;*
(b) *Adopt and implement the action plan of legislative, regulatory, administrative and other measures to be taken in the next three–five years, to establish and maintain a clear, transparent and consistent framework to implement the Aarhus Convention;*
(c) *Undertake coherent capacity building on the respective Aarhus Convention provisions for public authorities and governmental institutions that possess environmental information or take decisions relating to the environment, as well as courts, prosecutors, the Ombudsman and other law enforcement authorities.*

Recommendation 5.2:

The Government should:

- (a) *Further develop its legal framework to ensure active and passive access to environmental information in accordance with the Aarhus Convention;*
- (b) *Progressively increase the amount of environmental information available in electronic databases which are easily accessible to the public through the Internet.*

Recommendation 5.3:

The Government should mandate the Committee for Environmental Protection and its subordinate institutions to:

- (a) *Post on their websites the latest state-of-the-environment report and continue this practice once the new reports are available;*
- (b) *Continue posting on their websites information on the types and the scope of environmental information held by them and also the basic terms and conditions under which such information is made available and accessible, and the process by which it can be obtained;*
- (c) *Continue keeping records of requests for environmental information, and the action taken in response to these requests, separately from other forms of public enquiries.*

Recommendation 5.4:

The Government should:

- (a) *Adopt a policy document on the development and state support of civil society and its institutions;*
- (b) *Revise legislation to simplify the procedures for the operation of environmental NGOs in line with international standards;*
- (c) *Further develop its legal framework in terms of rules and procedures ensuring effective public participation in the development of plans, programmes, policy and legislation relating to the environment;*
- (d) *Revise its legal framework on decision-making on specific activities that may have a significant effect on the environment to ensure effective public participation on the part of public authorities.*

Recommendation 5.5:

The Government should mandate the Committee for Environmental Protection to:

- (a) *Continue promoting on its website environmental awareness among the public on how to participate in various decision-making processes;*
- (b) *Post on its website all information relevant to individual EIA procedures and conclusions of state ecological expertise once they are taken.*

Recommendation 5.6:

The Government should:

- (a) *Mandate the Ministry of Justice, the Ombudsman and the Committee for Environmental Protection to promote access to justice in environmental matters and raise the public's awareness of their rights and opportunities as provided by the Aarhus Convention and national legislation;*
- (b) *Develop the capacity of judges, staff of the Ombudsman and the Committee for Environmental Protection to provide access to justice in environmental matters to members of the public and environmental NGOs.*

Recommendation 5.7:

The Government should:

- (a) *Develop legal and operational frameworks to support education for sustainable development, including the national implementation plan for the ECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development;*
- (b) *Assign specific mandates on education for sustainable development to the Committee for Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Education and Science;*

- (c) *Continue regular training for educators on sustainable development and environment-related topics at all levels of education;*
- (d) *Publish textbooks and guidance materials on education for sustainable development;*
- (e) *Support the work of academia and NGOs on education for sustainable development;*
- (f) *Promote the integration of environmental education and education for sustainable development into the in-service training of environmental and other public authorities.*

Chapter 6: Climate change and glacier melt

Recommendation 6.1:

The Government should:

- (a) *Establish a national coordination mechanism on climate change;*
- (b) *Modernize the national climate change centre under the Hydrometeorological Agency and equip it with adequate technical support;*
- (c) *Monitor the implementation of the National Determined Contribution through relevant indicators;*
- (d) *Improve the measurement, reporting and verification framework of policies and measures to track the progress in implementation of the National Determined Contribution.*

Recommendation 6.2:

The Government should:

- (a) *Monitor the state of glaciers and conduct studies and research on possible measures to address glacier melting;*
- (b) *Take urgent action to address the dynamics of ice movement, crystal sliding, and gravitational descents;*
- (c) *Identify and implement community-based adaptation measures for the population exposed to the risks of glacier melting;*
- (d) *Address the issue of water scarcity and increased demand for irrigation due to drought;*
- (e) *Strengthen the climate change water adaptation planning and implementation, including measures foreseen in the Medium-Term Development Programme for the period 2021–2025;*
- (f) *Update the State Programme on Research and Preservation of Glaciers of Tajikistan for 2010–2030.*

Recommendation 6.3:

The Government should:

- (a) *Finalize and adopt the National Adaptation Plan, including priority actions for reducing the country's vulnerability to climate change;*
- (b) *Improve, upgrade and/or extend existing early warning systems throughout the country;*
- (c) *Identify priority threats, risk factors, high-risk regions and the most vulnerable population groups;*
- (d) *Develop and adopt the National Implementation Plan of the National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change up to 2030, including costs and sources of financing;*
- (e) *Undertake an assessment on the costs of inaction, as a minimum for the sectors included in the National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change up to 2030 and the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy for the period 2019–2030;*
- (f) *Design and implement climate-smart solutions across sectors at the national and sub-national levels;*
- (g) *Promote adaptation in the forest sector through measures like reforestation or afforestation, natural and active or supported restoration, and protection of forests from logging, grazing, fires and pests;*
- (h) *Promote the improvement of infrastructure and access roads in the country, particularly in dangerous and vulnerable areas.*

Recommendation 6.4:

The Government should:

- (a) *Identify and implement key actions to reduce the vulnerability to climate change of the agricultural sector, increase its resilience and decrease greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the sector;*

- (b) *Mitigate climate change impacts on crop productivity;*
- (c) *Promote adaptation measures in agriculture, such as climate-smart agricultural practices, new agriculture technologies and methods adapted to climate change.*

Recommendation 6.5:

The Government should:

- (a) *Identify and implement key actions to improve the resilience of and to decrease GHG emissions from the energy sector;*
- (b) *Identify measures to address electricity shortages due to climate change;*
- (c) *Seek the support of international donors and financial institutions to plan and deploy smart-grids, intelligent electricity networks and demand-driven systems to reduce demand peaks and overcome electricity shortages due to climate change.*

Recommendation 6.6:

The Government should:

- (a) *Set a sustainable framework of measurement, reporting and verification and ensure technical capacity and analytical capability;*
- (b) *Develop a sustainable national GHG inventory management system.*
- (c) *Strengthen the capacity of relevant national institutions to increase transparency on climate action.*

Chapter 7: Implementation of international agreements and commitments

Recommendation 7.1:

The Government should:

- (a) *Strengthen the institutional framework of focal points and designated national authorities for improved implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to which Tajikistan is party;*
- (b) *Ensure an efficient procedure for confirming the nomination of national focal points and experts invited to participate in the work of MEAs;*
- (c) *Ensure that focal points comply with their duties of sharing information and preparing and disseminating meeting reports;*
- (d) *Strengthen technical capacities for implementing MEAs and ensure timely reporting.*

Recommendation 7.2:

The Committee for Environmental Protection, in close collaboration with relevant line ministries, should:

- (a) *Ensure fulfilment of commitments it has assumed in the framework of MEAs to which Tajikistan is party;*
- (b) *Ensure that the texts of all MEAs are published at the website of the Committee in national languages and that the reports on their implementation are made available online;*
- (c) *Review and amend national legislation for the implementation of the Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, including implementing regulations, enhance statistics on the generation and movement of hazardous waste and implement measures to reduce domestic hazardous waste quantities for transboundary movement;*
- (d) *Update the National Implementation Plan for the management of persistent organic pollutants, taking into account the new chemicals listed in annex to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;*
- (e) *Participate in the UNEP Green Customs Initiative and benefit from the available international expertise and information in taking actions on the safe management of chemicals throughout their life cycle.*

Recommendation 7.3:

The Committee for Environmental Protection and the Centre for Biodiversity and Biosafety, in close collaboration with relevant line ministries, should:

- (a) *Ensure synergies while implementing the biodiversity related MEAs identified below;*
- (b) *Complete the development of the national biosafety system under the Cartagena Protocol, including the legal framework, procedures and emergency response plans; and ensure completion of the mechanism on access and benefit-sharing under the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, including an online permitting system;*
- (c) *Carry out an assessment of the effectiveness of enforcement measures related to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora;*
- (d) *Prepare and approve management plans for all Ramsar sites;*
- (e) *Update and adopt the national action programme or plan to combat desertification under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.*

Recommendation 7.4:

The Government should complete the necessary preparatory work, including the related feasibility assessments, as needed, and promote accession (to support the Sustainable Development Goals and targets as listed) to:

- (a) *1998 Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury (target 12.4);*
- (b) *ECE/WHO Protocol on Water and Health (targets 3.9, 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3);*
- (c) *1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its amended protocols, i.e., the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, the Protocol on Heavy Metals and the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (targets 3.9, 12.4 and 11.6);*
- (d) *1992 Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (targets 3.9, 3d, 6.3, 9.1, 9.4, 11.5 and 12.4);*
- (e) *2003 Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (targets 3d, 6.5, 6.6, 13.2, 13.3, 17.14 and 17.17 and Goal 16);*
- (f) *Almaty Amendment to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.*

Recommendation 7.5:

The Government should continue engaging in activities, with the aim of accession and to support the Sustainable Development Goals and targets as listed, under:

- (a) *1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (targets 6.5 and 14.c);*
- (b) *1991 Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and its 2003 Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Goal 12).*

Recommendation 7.6:

The Committee for Environmental Protection should:

- (a) *Develop, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, a strategy for technical cooperation on environmental protection;*
- (b) *Develop and publish on its website a database of all technical assistance projects on environmental protection;*
- (c) *Build capacity in understanding and participation in the programming processes of international financial institutions and development partners;*
- (d) *Ensure that relevant priorities, including the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, are incorporated into assessments of the country's needs for technical cooperation.*

Chapter 8: Air protection

Recommendation 8.1:

The Committee for Environmental Protection should support:

- (a) *Adoption and use of the new methodology for air emissions inventory based on EMEP and European Environment Agency air pollutant emission inventory guidebook, covering all relevant pollutants from all sources;*
- (b) *Integration of data gathering and compilation processes for air and GHG emission inventories.*

Recommendation 8.2:

The Committee for Environmental Protection should actively use the existing mobile air monitoring station to identify air pollution hotspots and to plan the enlargement of the ambient air quality monitoring network.

Recommendation 8.3:

The Committee for Environmental Protection should abolish the use of the current air quality index and ensure provision of more user-friendly, transparent data on air quality.

Recommendation 8.4:

The Committee for Environmental Protection should support the establishment of the regular monitoring of sand and dust storms using existing national and regional resources.

Recommendation 8.5:

The Government should continue its efforts in expanding the network of central heating and encourage off-network households to replace coal with renewable and/or cleaner energy.

Chapter 9: Water management

Recommendation 9.1:

The Government should:

- (a) *Accelerate the implementation and monitoring of the Programme for Water Sector Reform for the period 2016–2025, addressing pending issues and gaps;*
- (b) *Carry out a review of the effectiveness of the outcomes of the Programme as at 2025 to support the development of follow up activities beyond 2025 while ensuring their financing from the State budget.*

Recommendation 9.2:

The Government should:

- (a) *Identify and set up effective protection zones for water bodies;*
- (b) *Review provisions for the identification and management of zones at risk of floods, mudflows and avalanches, to ensure adequate protection of the population;*
- (c) *Provide additional financial resources for the modernization and capacity enhancement of state-run water laboratories to enable informed decision-making based on internationally recognized reliable data;*
- (d) *Improve monitoring of water resources, including biological and ecological monitoring of surface water;*
- (e) *Increase the public availability of information about water quality and quantity.*

Recommendation 9.3:

The Government should ensure timely provision of national data for relevant Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators to enable the assessment of progress towards achieving water-related SDG targets to which Tajikistan has committed.

Recommendation 9.4:

The Government should review the water-related recommendations of the third EPR of Tajikistan and pursue their implementation, as follows:

- (a) Increase investments and create a favourable environment for attracting investment in water-related infrastructure, especially in rural areas;*
- (b) Guarantee the security and safety of water infrastructure during floods and droughts;*
- (c) Follow the design and construction of new water supply and sanitation infrastructure.*

Chapter 10: Waste and chemicals management

Recommendation 10.1:

The Government should ensure:

- (a) That statistical reporting on municipal and industrial waste, including generation, reuse, recycling and disposal, is carried out in electronic form;*
- (b) The availability of state statistics on production and consumption waste to all interested parties and the public;*
- (c) Strict and timely submission of statistical reports on municipal and industrial waste in accordance with the current legislation;*
- (d) The processing of collected data, their analysis and inclusion in state statistics, with a breakdown by type of waste, economic sector and territory;*
- (e) The conduct of retrospective processing and analysis of statistical reporting since at least 2015 and the analysis of existing trends.*

Recommendation 10.2:

The Government should ensure that the Committee for Environmental Protection, in cooperation with relevant authorities, develops a waste management strategy based on updated information and statistical data and the results of completed projects.

Recommendation 10.3:

The Agency for Chemical, Biological, Radiation and Nuclear Safety, in cooperation with relevant authorities, should:

- (a) Assess the implementation of the National Concept on Rehabilitation of Uranium Waste Tailings for the period 2014–2024 and, based on the assessment results, draft an implementation action plan considering prospects for international cooperation;*
- (b) Conduct regular radiation and environmental monitoring of reclaimed uranium legacy sites and ensure that monitoring results are publicly available.*

Recommendation 10.4:

The Government should develop and implement regulations on:

- (a) The classification of construction and demolition waste;*
- (b) Construction and demolition waste management, including collection, removal, storage, recycling and disposal;*
- (c) Strengthening the recycling and proper disposal of construction and demolition waste.*

Recommendation 10.5:

The Government should:

- (a) Strengthen the requirements for solid waste management in residential areas and social facilities;*
- (b) Take measures for the prevention and consistent elimination of illegal spontaneous dumpsites.*

Recommendation 10.6:

The Government should:

- (a) *Assess the implementation of the Health and Pollution Action Plan and the possibility of developing, on its basis, an action plan for the remediation of areas contaminated with obsolete pesticides;*
- (b) *Revise the regulations classifying obsolete pesticides as non-hazardous waste.*

Recommendation 10.7:

The Government should ensure that all medical institutions, regardless of departmental affiliation, comply with the 2021 sanitary standards and rules for the collection, neutralization, transportation, storage and disposal of waste in medical institutions.

Recommendation 10.8:

The Government should introduce:

- (a) *Deposit-refund systems for certain plastic and other types of packaging materials to incentivize reuse, recycling and proper disposal;*
- (b) *Extended producer responsibility principles into current legislation in order to encourage the recycling of hazardous substances and induce manufacturers to ensure component reuse and material recovery in their product development.*

Recommendation 10.9:

The Government should ensure timely and complete reporting to the secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.

Chapter 11: Biodiversity and protected areas

Recommendation 11.1:

The Government should ensure development and implementation of the state biodiversity and forests monitoring systems.

Recommendation 11.2:

The Committee for Environmental Protection should:

- (a) *Ensure legal provisions to grant permanent legal protective status to all types of protected areas;*
- (b) *Develop and continuously assess the implementation of the management plans for the existing protected areas;*
- (c) *Raise the staff skills and operational capacities for the better management of protected areas.*

Recommendation 11.3:

The Committee for Environmental Protection should update the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and the State Programme on Development of Specially Protected Natural Areas.

Recommendation 11.4:

The Government should:

- (a) *Align existing community-based trophy hunting programmes with the national legal framework;*
- (b) *Ensure that the determination of the hunting quotas for the animals inscribed in the Red Book is based on comprehensive species monitoring data to maintain viable populations of species.*

Chapter 12: Soil conservation

Recommendation 12.1:

The Government should:

- (a) *Enhance collaboration between the institutions dealing with soil conservation;*
- (b) *Strengthen the capacity of other national institutions dealing with soil management.*

Recommendation 12.2:

The Government should:

- (a) *Establish a well-designed grid-based soil monitoring system to cover the whole territory of the country and ensure its adequate funding;*
- (b) *Update and modernize laboratory facilities for soil monitoring.*

Recommendation 12.3:

The Government should establish a digital soil information system and a digital land parcel identification system and ensure their adequate funding.

Recommendation 12.4:

The Government should:

- (a) *Develop relevant indicators to monitor soil quality;*
- (b) *Amend the legal provisions to reflect updated information on soil data;*
- (c) *Revise the policy on soil conservation, protection and management to adjust it to international standards of soil conservation, protection and management practices.*

Recommendation 12.5:

The Government should:

- (a) *Carry out a mapping of vulnerable areas of soil degradation, particularly those subjected to erosion;*
- (b) *Increase controls on the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides;*
- (c) *Promote environmentally friendly farming practices supported with the necessary funding;*
- (d) *Define integrated restoration actions to prevent soil degradation, including minimization of nutrient depletion, improvement of the vegetation cover, protection of the biodiversity and better water resources management.*

Chapter 13: Industry and the environment

Recommendation 13.1:

The Government should:

- (a) *Take measures to promote green innovation by increasing public research and development expenditures and encouraging higher spending in the private sector;*
- (b) *Strengthen technological capacity, especially for the development of medium- and high-tech industries, through the creation of technology and innovation support centres that also develop green technologies;*
- (c) *Take measures to promote sustainable production and consumption.*

Recommendation 13.2:

The Government should:

- (a) *Promote the introduction of greener technologies, energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources in industry and mining to decouple the increase of harmful air emissions and greenhouse emissions from industrial development;*

- (b) *Ensure that eco-industrial parks are established with the requirement of using cleaner technologies or best available techniques and technologies.*

Recommendation 13.3:

The Government should:

- (a) *Assess the environmental, health and safety risks of existing mining tailings and identify priority actions to be implemented;*
(b) *Assess the impact of climate change on the existing tailings facilities to enhance preparedness and response in case of accidents due to the consequences of natural events;*
(c) *Strengthen the regulations related to the management and rehabilitation of tailings facilities;*
(d) *Continue the rehabilitation of uranium tailings from old mines.*

Recommendation 13.4:

The Government should:

- (a) *Take measures to promote the sustainable development of the mining sector;*
(b) *Review the Law on Subsoil or elaborate a new law to align the national legislation with international standards on sustainable mining;*
(c) *Consider the introduction of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources for the sustainable development of mineral resources of the country.*

Chapter 14: Energy and the environment

Recommendation 14.1:

The Government should:

- (a) *Review the existing structure for promotion of energy efficiency based on international best practices;*
(b) *Revise, consolidate and streamline relevant energy policies with the view of developing a comprehensive end-use energy efficiency policy framework, including building codes, fuel efficiency standards, minimum energy performance standards and labelling, and enforced audit requirements for industry;*
(c) *Facilitate the establishment of energy service companies;*
(d) *Conduct studies to identify prospective sites for piloting comprehensive energy efficiency improvement projects;*
(e) *Develop incentives for manufacturers of energy-efficient equipment.*

Recommendation 14.2:

The Government should:

- (a) *Support deployment of renewable energy technologies, in particular solar energy for electricity production and water heating, small hydropower, energy storage solutions and other technologies, for cost-effective off-grid energy supply and/or reliable access to energy services for rural populations during power shortages;*
(b) *Conduct studies to identify prospective sites for deployment of renewable energy solutions;*
(c) *Develop incentives for manufacturers of renewable energy equipment, and suppliers of local off-grid renewables-based electricity, particularly in rural areas;*
(d) *Conduct awareness-raising activities, while ensuring involvement of all relevant stakeholders, on the use of available modern cooking and heating installations and energy saving equipment for households;*
(e) *Take measures to promote phasing out wood, coal and dung use in the residential sector in rural areas and their replacement with modern alternatives, and provide a financial support scheme to facilitate action.*

Recommendation 14.3:

The Government should:

- (a) *Ensure that the coal sector follows best international industry practices and complies with international safety, environmental, health and social standards;*
- (b) *Ensure the availability of specialized professional educational and training programmes for engineers for the coal sector, and of advanced training for technical staff already employed in the sector;*
- (c) *Address the social and environmental impacts of coal mine operations and closures, while involving concerned stakeholders in consultation processes;*
- (d) *Explore opportunities for alternative uses of coal as a resource, while minimizing the environmental impacts, and a concept of coal mining as a multi-resource platform serving the needs of green economy;*
- (e) *Consider re-orienting the coal mining ecosystem towards the development of innovative hi-tech industries organized in clusters around existing but redesigned coal mines that provide new enterprises with valuable feedstock;*
- (f) *Consider the use in the coal sector of principles for methane management as contained in relevant ECE Best Practice Guidance documents.*

Recommendation 14.4:

The Government should:

- (a) *Pursue the policy of restructuring electricity tariffs to eliminate cross-subsidies and achieve the level of prices that ensures cost recovery in the electricity sector;*
- (b) *Develop a methodology for electricity tariff-setting that will incentivize investment in efficient power sector development and research and development, while taking adequate measures to protect vulnerable population groups and preserve the affordability of electricity services;*
- (c) *Advance efforts to increase the collection rate of electricity bills;*
- (d) *Ensure the electricity system's stability while aligning the restructuring of electricity tariffs with potential investment;*
- (e) *Enable research and development for the sustainable development of the energy system, led by relevant academic institutions in close coordination with relevant ministries and international experts.*

Recommendation 14.5:

The Ministry of Energy and Water Resources should take into account the impacts of climate change on hydrology when planning for new hydropower facilities, by ensuring that their design and management are able to cope with more frequent extreme weather events under a range of projected climate change scenarios.

Recommendation 14.6:

The Government should:

- (a) *Continue improving the collection, monitoring, and verification of data from the energy sector and increase the disaggregation and accuracy of data on energy end uses;*
- (b) *Ensure the public availability of, and online accessibility to, accurate and reasonably up-to-date data on key energy indicators and official energy statistics, compiled in line with international recommendations and agreed standards, in a timely manner.*

Chapter 15: Agriculture and the environment

Recommendation 15.1:

The Government should:

- (a) *Pursue the efforts of integrating environmental concerns in the legislation on agriculture and land use;*
- (b) *Improve the implementation of the laws by adopting by-laws related to the various obligations, including the development of standards and rules for food safety and security and sustainable use of pastures;*
- (c) *Further elaborate and promote organic agriculture in the legislation, such as standards, rules, certification and quality control.*

Recommendation 15.2:

The Government should redefine, clarify and simplify the roles and responsibilities of the various bodies involved in agriculture and improve interinstitutional coordination concerning:

- (a) *Research and monitoring (relevant academies and committees);*
- (b) *Land management, accounting, monitoring and control;*
- (c) *Accreditation and certification of products such as livestock, breeds and seeds.*

Recommendation 15.3:

The Government should develop and implement specific technical programmes or projects, aiming to reduce the footprint and effects of agriculture on the environment, in the following priority areas:

- (a) *Effective use of water resources and ecosystems, including the development of drip irrigation and water recycling;*
- (b) *Use of environmentally safe fertilizers and pesticides through the experimentation or implementation of new and innovative practices, methods and products;*
- (c) *Reduction of energy consumption in agriculture, mainly through the promotion of renewable energy use and improvement of equipment and behaviour;*
- (d) *Adopt an agro-ecological approach in the agricultural sector that promotes soil restoration and associated ecosystem services;*
- (e) *Organize farmer field schools to mobilize local knowledge and share experiences on building productive agro-ecological systems and on transformations that integrate environmental, production and consumption issues.*

Chapter 16: Transport and the environment

Recommendation 16.1:

The Government should pursue the implementation of the Electric Transport Development Programme for 2023–2028, with key performance indicators and clear timeframes for each stage.

Recommendation 16.2:

The Government should develop and implement coherent policies and actions aimed at incentivizing the use of public transport services and alternative active modes of transport.

Recommendation 16.3:

The Government should step up its efforts in improving road safety.

Recommendation 16.4:

The Government should consider accession to transport-related agreements, in particular:

- (a) *1958 Agreement concerning the Adoption of Harmonized Technical United Nations Regulations for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be Fitted and/or be Used on Wheeled Vehicles and the Conditions for Reciprocal Recognition of Approvals Granted on the Basis of these United Nations Regulations;*
- (b) *1975 European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries;*
- (c) *1989 Convention on Civil Liability for Damage caused during Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road, Rail and Inland Navigation Vessels;*
- (d) *1993 Protocol amending article 1 (a), article 14 (1) and article 14 (3) (b) of the European Agreement of 30 September 1957 concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road;*
- (e) *1997 Agreement concerning the Adoption of Uniform Conditions for Periodical Technical Inspections of Wheeled Vehicles and the Reciprocal Recognition of Such Inspections.*

Chapter 17: Health and the environment

Recommendation 17.1:

The Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population should:

- (a) *Enhance infectious disease surveillance through introducing integrated service delivery and legally specified data flows to data reporting by primary healthcare centres, hospitals and other healthcare institutions, and ensure training of all those involved in the uniform diagnosis of diseases;*
- (b) *Strengthen laboratory networks through cost-effective upgrading of selected laboratories with enhanced capabilities to diagnose a range of infectious diseases and detect bacterial, viral and parasite pathogens in water and food samples;*
- (c) *Improve capacity and skills at national and district levels to apply geographical and analytical epidemiological methods to surveillance and other relevant data to inform and support disease control and prevention;*
- (d) *Establish mechanisms for maintaining links between epidemiologists and microbiologists on a daily basis and conducting linkage analyses between microbiological and surveillance data;*
- (e) *Together with the Ministry of Agriculture, establish mechanisms for maintaining the timely and regular exchange of data and information on the incidence of human and animal zoonoses between the Service of State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance and the State Veterinary Inspection Service at national and district levels and for joint investigation of local outbreaks.*

Recommendation 17.2:

The Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population, in cooperation with relevant government bodies, should:

- (a) *Develop and implement programmes to improve hygiene and sanitary conditions, in particular in those villages where there is no piped drinking water supply and where the people use surface water as a source of drinking water;*
- (b) *Reinforce hygiene education, in particular in remote rural communities;*
- (c) *Ensure that modernization of water treatment systems and distribution networks is governed by achieving the maximum reduction of health risks from microbiological contamination of the drinking water;*
- (d) *Ensure progressive implementation of World Health Organization water safety plans in small water supply systems across the country;*
- (e) *Pursue starting work on the nationwide review of sewage collection and sanitary disposal facilities in schools and hospitals to prioritize investments.*

Recommendation 17.3:

The Committee for Food Safety under the Government and other relevant government bodies, should:

- (a) *Take actions to decrease foodborne health risks along the entire food chain in order to protect public health;*
- (b) *Strengthen a risk-based national integrated system on food safety that includes foodborne zoonoses and ensures effective and efficient control throughout the entire food chain;*
- (c) *Ensure inter-agency coordination to improve food safety control management by developing national procedures for food safety and for improved communication internally, throughout the food chain and internationally;*
- (d) *Strengthen the capacity of laboratories to conduct food safety analyses according to international standards for all products in Tajikistan and accreditation of the laboratories for these tests;*
- (e) *Ensure updating of the curricula of various educational institutions, introducing a component on food safety to align them with the international food standards, including hazard analysis and critical control points system, and including topics relevant to food safety, focusing on risk analysis, risk-based inspection and early warning systems.*

Recommendation 17.4:

The Government should:

- (a) *Collect information on the use and distribution of asbestos, lead and radon;*
- (b) *Evaluate the concentrations and the health impact of the different environmental factors in indoor air, in particular in schools and kindergartens;*
- (c) *Develop laboratory capacity for lead analysis in blood, raise awareness of medical staff on lead poisoning detection, organize the registration of lead poisoning and carry out environmental investigations to determine and eliminate the exposure source for each case;*
- (d) *Develop a communication campaign on indoor air quality directed at the population;*
- (e) *Take action to reduce the effects of climate change on health.*

Recommendation 17.5:

The Government should:

- (a) *Carry out impact assessment of anthropogenic activities on health and environment in mining and hazardous substances stockpiles;*
- (b) *Implement actions to reduce or stop pollutant emission and exposure of the population;*
- (c) *Develop relevant health monitoring and care in regard of the determined health impact;*
- (d) *Take measures to protect human health from the adverse impact of chemicals.*

Recommendation 17.6:

The Government should ratify the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187) and conventions with environmental conditions of work impacting health of the workers, among them the Asbestos Convention, 1986 (No. 162), Safety and Health in Construction Convention, 1988 (No. 167), Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170), Safety and Health in Mines Convention, 1995 (No. 176), and Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001 (No. 184).
