

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN KOSOVO: AN AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE OF KOSOVO

THE GLOBAL AGENDA 2030

In September 2015, the world leaders adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - a set of universal goals for a better future for everyone. Although not a signatory at the UN General Assembly, Kosovo joined the efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle environmental issues in a participatory way and through engaging with the regional partners to global requirements while fulfilling their own institutional priorities.

With the context of Kosovo there is much more than just a contribution by Kosovo to establishing the connection to Sustainable Development Goals.

In October 2015, on the occasion of the 70 birthday of the UN, the Kosovo authorities, the international community, and civil society leaders launched the Sustainable Development Goals in a solemn ceremony chaired by the Prime Minister, Isa Mustafa and the UN Development Coordinator, Andrew Russell.

“There is Kosovar DNA in these Global Goals”

Andrew Russell, UN Development Coordinator

LISTENING TO KOSOVARS' VOICES

In March 2013, inputs from people across the world were collected, consolidated and shared with the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The entire consultations exercise was called Post-2015 Debate, and Kosovo was among a privileged few places requested to contribute their voices to this critical global debate for shaping tomorrow's development pathway. The United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programs in Kosovo (UNKT) was mandated to facilitate the gathering of voices and opinions of Kosovars from all sections of society - youth, women and civil society- and to convey this feedback to government leaders.

During the first phase of consultations, more than 9,000 people were reached out and interviewed – online, through face to face and focus groups - on the importance of being involved with the development agenda. The findings of the first report on Post-2015, prioritizing qualitative education, fair employment and accessible health services for all, were submitted to the UN High Level Panel in March 2013 and were included in the Global Report: “One million voices - the world we want”.

“Just as in the case of the Global Goals, Kosovo's development path must be a sustainable one.”
Isa Mustafa, Prime Minister

The second phase focused on employment and education, and on how to ensure accountability to the process. A Post-2015 Task Force dug deeper into the causes for challenges that exist in Kosovo with regard to accountability mechanisms and the second report from Kosovo was submitted to the New York on September 2014.

Consultations brought Kosovars together from the remote mountains of Dragash/Dragaš to the farmlands of Peja/Peć and the cafés of Prishtinë/Priština, from every ethnic group, age and

every walk of life. Kosovars asked each other: What are our dreams for the future? What are our priorities for change? And how should we organize ourselves, to get the job done?

The conclusions they arrived at are inspiring. As it turns out, Kosovars built their dreams on twin foundations: the opportunity to maximize their potential, and a call for fair treatment in their homes, their communities and the wider non-corrupt world.

ALIGNING THE SDGs TO KOSOVO REALITY

Having initiated the commitment to the SDGs, Kosovo followed up on an ambitious plan for integration and implementation of SDGs in line with the “National Development Strategy (NDS) 2016-2021”, the “European Reform Agenda” and the Stabilization and Association Agreement. The SDGs process is implemented through guidance on the mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support (MAPS) approach which is applicable for Kosovo as well.

Locally, the UNKT has set the management structures which will facilitate SDG integration guided by the ‘UN Common Development Plan (CDP) 2016 – 2021’. UN agencies will continue providing expertise and support to the Kosovo institutions on the integration of the SDGs and on the specific targets and indicators that will be measured for progress over the next years.



The UNKT is currently supporting the Kosovo institutions to integrate the SDGs into a key strategic planning process. To support this effort, UNKT works at central and local level with the Strategic Planning Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of European Integration, the Ministry of Finance and the Civikos NGOs platform network. UNKT is also in the process of exploring new partnerships with the private sector as the emerging supporter of social and economic needs in Kosovo.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE GLOBAL AGENDA

As Kosovo’s administration looks to the next phase of development planning, the main question should be: is there a better way? The better way is pointed by Kosovars themselves. The SAA negotiations the ongoing dialogue on visa liberalization, the new global platforms for Kosovo’s contribution on an equal footing with everyone, are all promising opportunities to set a new course to a brighter future as part of the European and global family.

Parliament, ministries, municipalities and communities can challenge current modalities of work, turning energies towards building quality and fairness into people’s lives beyond just simply tracking the traditional economic statistics.

