

## Promotion of initiatives in the field of "Sustainable Development Goals" in Uzbekistan

Brief introduction the status of the promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals initiatives in Uzbekistan, the achieved results and plans for the future, adhering to the goal of ensuring that no one behind.

It is known that at the initiative of the President of the country H.E. Sh.Mirziyoyev, for more than 5 years, large-scale reforms have been carried out in all areas, aimed at comprehensive development for the benefit of people, under the slogan "Everything is for the benefit of the people, prosperity and creation." These reforms are also reflected in the field of statistics.

Two laws were adopted, in particular, in 2021, the "Law on Official Statistics", which fully complies with the regulatory norms of the "Model Law on Official Statistics", as well as the Law "On Population Census".

Also, a number of Presidential and governmental regulatory documents were adopted, aimed at modernizing national statistics, adhering to the principles of openness and transparency.

As a result, the country has revealed a wide range of macroeconomic, financial and social statistics previously not available to the public.

In May 2018, Uzbekistan joined the IMF's enhanced General Data Dissemination System, where published around 422 datasets across 24 categories. At the same time, in close collaboration with the IMF experts, work is underway to move to the "Special Data Dissemination Standard" by the end of this year.

In 2020, the Statistical Council a high-level advisory body was established.

The dissemination of about 20 statistical yearbooks, quarterly reports, as well as monthly press releases reflecting in detail the socio-economic situation in the country has been arranged. A regular information exchange has been established with **16** international organizations, in accordance with their **46** questionnaires.

All products are available both in paper and electronic formats, all of them are published on the official website of the State Committee on Statistics, as well as on Facebook, Twitter, Telegram, etc.

Like other countries of the world, Uzbekistan has joined the SDG Agenda and committed itself to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level.

Evidence of this is the adoption of **16** national goals and **126** targets in the field of sustainable development, approved by the relevant government decision in 2018.

To monitor the implementation of national SDGs, a list of national SDG indicators was developed, formed on the basis of a global list of these indicators, which currently includes about **190** indicators recognized as relevant for Uzbekistan.

It should also be noted that Uzbekistan presented its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) at a high-level political forum - UN ECOSOC in July 2020. In 2023, Uzbekistan plans to present its second VNR.

For monitoring purposes, with the support of UNDP, the website of the National SDGs was developed, designed to provide centralized access to information resources that allow tracking the implementation of the adopted goals and objectives. To date, **124** indicators or **65.3%** of the total number of approved SDG indicators have been published.

Also, in order to monitor the SDGs, the State Committee on Statistics prepared and published the “Handbook of statistical indicators for achieving national SDGs in the Republic of Uzbekistan”.

I would also like to note that among the CIS countries, Uzbekistan was the first to publish the “Handbook of SDG indicators”, which was also posted on the official website of the UNECE on the “Web platform for SDG data”.

Work is underway to expand the composition and volume of statistical information presented to the public. In particular, **about 40 ministries and agencies, including statisticians of Uzbekistan**, are involved in the formation of indicators.

In addition, with the support of ESCAP, work is underway on introducing the **SDG Tracker** platform. About **60** SDG indicators are currently published on this platform.

Currently, work is ongoing to determine the calculation methodology and data sources for unavailable SDG indicators.

One source of information is the MICS multi-indicator cluster survey. In this connection, a government decision was made to conduct this survey jointly with UNICEF. The survey will provide up-to-date information on the situation of children and women comparable at the international level. In addition, the MICS will provide more than **20** SDG indicators.

Despite the situation associated with the Covid pandemic, the survey was carried out, which shows a kind of uniqueness. Currently, the collected information is being processed and analyzed, and as soon as possible, the

results will be available to the public, both on the website of the State Committee on Statistics and on the website of UNICEF.

Also, active work is underway to **conduct a population census and an agricultural census** in subsequent years. The data generated from these activities will also allow updating many data.

In matters of open data, reforms were also carried out regarding the development and improvement of the “**Open Data Portal of Uzbekistan**”. With the assistance of experts, a new version of the Open Data Portal was developed and launched. In 2021, the country joined the International Open Data Charter.

At the same time, in order to continue reforms and ensure the complexity and scientific validity of actions, with the assistance of the World Bank, the “**National Strategy for the Development of Statistics for the period 2020-2025**” was developed and approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

All our further actions are carried out on the basis of the concept and norms set forth in this Strategy.

Of course, in this difficult and rapidly changing period of time, we all have a huge job ahead of us in providing quality, relevant, reliable and transparent statistical information to society and governments in the field of SDGs, to make politically important and strategic decisions for the benefit of people, adhering to the goal of ensuring that no one behind.

Based on this, in Uzbekistan we have identified a number of important medium term tasks for ourselves, on which we will work, actively involving our international partners, including ESCAP, as well as our colleagues from other countries, in particular from the countries of the Asia and the Pacific region.

**First**, by the end of this year, in mutual cooperation with UNICEF, we will publish the results of the MICS multi-indicator cluster survey;

**Secondly**, with the assistance of the IMF, we will complete the transition to the “Special Data Dissemination Standard”;

**Thirdly**, upon completion of the population and agricultural censuses, we will ensure the availability of their results and databases to the world community;

**Fourthly**, we will take the necessary measures to bring the List of SDG indicators in line with the global system and develop metadata taking into account the UN system recommendations;

**Fifthly**, we will continue to work on identifying data gaps, developing a mechanism for generating indicators that are not currently being formed at the national level;

**Sixth**, the issues of openness, transparency and relevance to meet the needs of users for statistical information, as well as information related to the SDGs, have always been and will be the main priority of our further reforms.