



*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus
Geneva*

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe and has the honour to refer to the joint letter of the Executive Secretary of UNECE and of the Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, UNDP, addressed to the President of the Republic of Cyprus (ref. UNECE/2015/OES/422/SDGU and dated 04 December 2016) and enclose herewith the input of Cyprus to the regional survey for the Planning, Implementation, Follow-up and Review of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 15 February 2016



Office of the
Executive Secretary
of the Economic Commission for Europe

PLANNING, IMPLEMENTATION, FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

REGIONAL SURVEY BY UNECE AND THE REGIONAL UN DEVELOPMENT GROUP FOR EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

An inter-ministerial committee is being formed to examine and evaluate the SDGs as well as their applicability in Cyprus. The competent ministries and agencies will undertake a thorough study of those SDGs and their interlinkages that fall under their competence and the degree to which Cyprus is already implementing them. Following a first evaluation, priorities will be set. The global set of indicators that the IAEG-SDGs is preparing in consultation with all national statistical offices will be crucial in order to move on to this first step and determine following action.

All ministries and other relevant governmental agencies and bodies will be responsible for the provision of existing data which fall under their competent field and collection of new data required by the SDGs. All data will be submitted to the national statistical service for proper analysis. Follow-up and review will be carried out by the designated authority responsible for the overall progress on SDGs, in collaboration with the inter-ministerial committee. A progress review report will be produced which will also take into account inputs from all stakeholders.

Cyprus' participation in EU relevant structures and monitoring mechanisms will be very important in its SDG implementation. The Government is also planning to strengthen partnerships with academia and the scientific community and other stakeholders, especially civil society and local authorities for that purpose, through different types of cooperation, including frequent consultations. The Cypriot vibrant civil society has already initiated relevant activities, the results of which will be taken into consideration by the Government authorities in their evaluation and planning.

The Government does not envisage any changes in the budgeting process due to the SDGs at the moment. Many commitments, especially concerning ODA, are already included in budgeting due to EU obligations. Even though it has not been decided whether it will have the general overview, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will surely play a very important role. For the moment, new planning tools and processes are not foreseen; existing structures will be used. However, new structures are not excluded, if deemed necessary.

Cyprus, as all other UN members, expects that the report of the UN Secretary General on the follow-up and review which contains, inter alia, recommendations on guidelines for national reporting, will be discussed at intergovernmental level and an informed decision will be taken on common guidelines. One constraint could be the defined scope of the report given the number and complexity of SDGs, targets and indicators. A member state could submit its national report directly to the High Political Forum on Sustainable Development through UN Secretariat. A

regional report could be submitted through the UN regional commissions which could set up their own modalities and mechanisms for the reporting of their members.

Due to the complexity of Agenda 2030 and the SDG framework, strengthening of statistical capacity will be a challenge for both developing and developed countries. An area where the UN system can help with SDG implementation is the development of a SDG indicator framework that is region specific. Important also will be the UN's assistance with regard to the development of thematic indicators. For example what would be the set of indicators to measure social inclusion (target 10.2) at the national and regional levels.

Finally, UN regional commissions can provide the regional platform for a follow-up and review process. The modalities of engagement can be discussed and decided by member states within their respective regional commission taking into account the principles and guidelines of Agenda 2030 including that of an inclusive participation.