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An Assessment of Turkmenistan's Constructive Policies and Sustainable Development Goals



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Turkmenistan is located at the center of the Eurasian continent. Since 2012, the country has been classified as an upper-middle-income country. Turkmenistan's gas reserves are estimated to be the world's fourth-largest, representing about 10 percent of global reserves. In addition to cotton and natural gas, the country is rich in petroleum, sulfur, iodine, salt, bentonite clays, limestone, gypsum, and cement—all potential inputs to chemical and construction industries. China is the largest market for Turkmenistan's hydrocarbon exports.



Moreover, the country is in the process of constructing the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline. Under the visionary leadership of His Excellency, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, Turkmenistan has been enhancing its global outreach and regional connectivity.

Opening the economy, improving the business regulatory environment, accelerating the corporatization and privatization of state-owned enterprises (SOEs), and investing more heavily in human capital have enabled vital developments in achieving Turkmenistan's medium and long-term national development goals.

Furthermore, Turkmenistan has adopted a productive and well-structured policy framework to achieve sustainable development goals (SDG30). Turkmenistan was one of the first countries to host a high-level United Nations mission on mainstreaming, accelerating, and support global SDGs to implement in Turkmenistan.



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Turkmenistan:

On 20 September 2016, the Government of Turkmenistan adopted 187 SDG indicators. Turkmenistan has become the first country in the region and one of the first few countries that adopted the SDG indicators into their National Development programs.

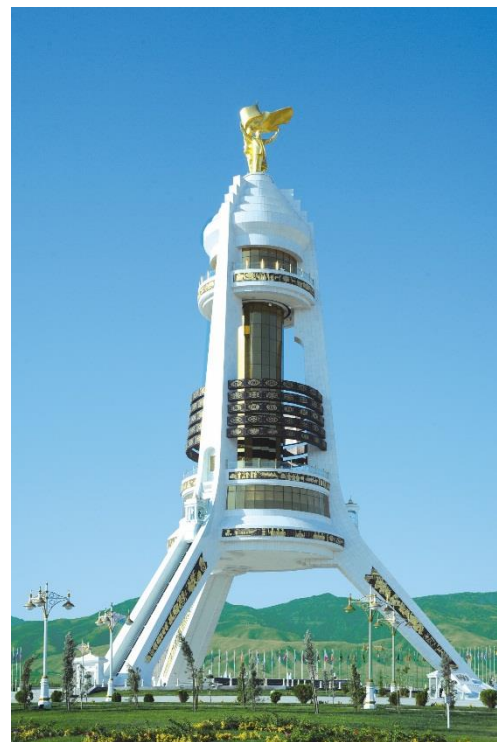
On 1st September 2017, the Scientific-Methodological Centre on SDGs was opened at the Institute of International Relations. The objectives of the Centre included multiple significant parameters: training activities on SDG implementation, preparation of curricula and their introduction in secondary, higher education institutions, and development of methodological aid on SDGs.

Moreover, an integrated matrix was developed to identify agencies responsible for each SDG indicator divided by elements of the measurement system. In this aspect, elements of the measurement system in Turkmenistan were as follows:

- Developing methodology
- Collecting data
- Data processing
- Setting up the database
- Analysis/Inception report
- Drafting SDG reports for national and international reporting systems/users

On 16th August 2018, certain amendments were introduced into the National System of SDG indicators of Turkmenistan. In this regard, 15 indicators were excluded, 14 indicators were changed, and 14 new indicators were introduced.

Furthermore, the ministries and agencies of Turkmenistan are well-coordinated to adapt and execute the programs.



Turkmenistan' s Achievements and Benefits vis-à-vis Sustainable Development

Goals:

Neutrality and a strong foundation have enabled Turkmenistan to flow its form believes and motives persistently. Neutrality is a door towards socio-economic and cultural development. This policy of neutrality and focusing on great initiatives have paved the way for Turkmenistan to attain its goals. Its foreign policy from '2019-2023' , Decree



defines priorities and achievements of international cooperation under the umbrella of neutral countries. The approach has provided huge socio-economic dividends to the country and enhanced economic growth.

Moreover, it has also resulted in industrialization, diversification of resources, food security, renewable energy, conflict resolution, and progress towards sustainable development goals. Under the prudent and dynamic leadership of Turkmenistan, it has maintained effective strategies and policy measures to progress in SDGs. In this context, the following are the major achievements mentioned below:

- Constructive outcomes in social policy
- Improved market transformations, receiving a new impetus
- Measures of climate adaptation and mitigation
- Strengthened positive indicators in providing the population with affordable and quality medical services and education
- Improvement of the health system
- Robust educational reform
- Maintaining the socially-oriented economic growth and green economic sectors
- Rational use of natural resources and effective climate change adaptation
- Comprehensive national reforms and providing with equal opportunities
- Full participation of women in the economic, political and cultural life of Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan, with an open approach, has been working to strengthen coordination and implementation of SDGs. Therefore, efficacious working groups have been created. The capacity of groups, according to the results of the implementation of the Cooperation Framework for Development (CF) 2021-2025, have enabled significant outcomes. The details are mentioned as below:

- Outcome 1: Effective governance and the rule of law
- Outcome 2: Inclusive economic diversification
- Outcome 3: Strong environmental management and building climate resilience
- Outcome 4: Quality of life, health and social protection systems
- Outcome 5: Quality education and training programs





Integrated Dimensions of Sustainable Development and Policy Coherence:

The contribution and efforts of His Excellency, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, have marked milestone developments. The open approach and integrated internal mechanism reflect that Turkmenistan is in the right direction in achieving Sustainable Development Goals. This highlights the comprehensive steps and actions taken by Turkmenistan to achieve the goals and objectives in the field of sustainable development. The result-oriented policies by the dynamic leadership of the country have ultimately proved to be a driving force for the amicable resolution of challenges, move towards international cooperation, and adopt sustainable SDGs.