

Report

# National Workshop on the Inter-linkages of Environment & Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Georgia



**19 – 21 February 2018**  
**Tbilisi, Georgia**



**National Workshop on the Inter-linkages of Environment and Health in the  
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development  
19-21 February 2018 Tbilisi, Georgia**

**NATIONAL WORKSHOP, GEORGIA**

UN Environment, Women Engage for a Common Future “WECF” and “WECF Georgia” facilitated the National Workshop on **Inter-linkages of Environment and Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** in Tbilisi, on 19-20 February 2018, in Tbilisi, Georgia followed by a half-day consultation on the inter-linkages with SDG5 on Gender-Equality and Women’s empowerment, which took place on 21 of February.

The National Workshop was co-organised by the government of Georgia; the Ministry of Environment & Agriculture, UN, WECF Georgia and Greens Movement (Friends of the Earth) Georgia. The National Workshop was supported by the German Environment Agency “UBA” and the Federal German Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety.

The third day which looked at the social and gender inter-linkages was co-organised by WECF Georgia, IDFI, UNDP, the Swedish Embassy and the Human Rights Secretariat of the Government of Georgia.

A total of 65 participants (42 women and 25 men) from the Government of Georgia, UN agencies, European Member State delegations and international cooperation partners, Universities, Private Sector and Civil Society organisations participated in the National Workshop (see annex 1, list of participants).

**OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL WORKSHOP**

The purpose of the national workshop was to raise awareness of the interconnections between the environment and health dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals and to develop the strategic partnership of actors to address the environmental and health challenges at national level. The event is part of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Objectives in the context of the international commitments of Georgia.

The National Workshop asked the question “what steps has Georgia taken to achieve the Sustainable development Goals, are we on the right path, and what more needs to be done?” The first day of the National Workshop assessed where Georgia stands now with the SDGs, looking specifically at the environmental and health dimensions. The second day looked at solutions and what more needs to be done. A third day looked particularly at the inter-linkages with the social and gender dimensions.

The workshop input is based on the Voluntary National Review (VNR) which the government of Georgia prepared in 2016, and presented at the High Level Political Forum at the United Nations. The results will be used to feed into the 2<sup>nd</sup> VNR to be presented next year, and to make adjustments if necessary to the SDG implementation plan. See <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>.

The results will also feed into the preparation of the National Portfolio of Actions for the Environment and Health process by the World Health Organisation Europe and the UNECE, to

be presented by the end of 2018. See <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/pages/european-environment-and-health-process-ehp>

## KEY-NOTE PRESENTATIONS

During the Opening session on February 19th 2018, several welcome addresses were presented (see also the Agenda, annex 2) by:

- **Nino Tandilashvili** - Deputy Minister of the Georgian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture
- **Daniel Haas**, German Embassy, Head of Development Cooperation in South Caucasus of
- **Wondwosen Asnake** - UN Environment

**Nino Tandilashvili**, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection & Agriculture of Georgia, stressed that the implementation of the Environmental and Health goals of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development is a priority for her ministry, and that the ministry is aligning the SDG targets with its commitments to the European Union environmental regulation. She gave example of the water and sanitation sector where the link between environment and health is very pertinent, and needs a coherent policy approach. She highlighted the cooperation with the United Nations.



Nino Tandilashvili,  
deputy minister

**Daniel Haas**, German Embassy, Head of Development Cooperation highlighted the importance of inter-sectoral action and raising awareness on the Environmental and Health dimensions of the SDGs. Putting the issues of air-quality and the sound management of water, waste and chemicals high on the SDG Agenda2030 is key for Georgia, and requires international cooperation.



Daniel Haas, German Embassy

**Wondwosen Asnake** of UN Environment presented the case for a Healthy Planet and Healthy People, the how UN Environment has the mandate for global monitoring of the environmental SDGs, including on the inter-linkages between the environmental and health dimensions of the SDGs. He recalled that we can “beat pollution” and live in a pollution-free community, no matter where we live. He presented how UN Environment has the mandate for the global monitoring of the environmental goals of the 2030 Agenda, but that all implementation plans need to ensure policy coherence and broad partnerships, including ensuring inter-linkages with health and social dimensions.



L – R: Tkhlava, Tandilashvili, Asnake, Haas



## STATUS OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA IN GEORGIA

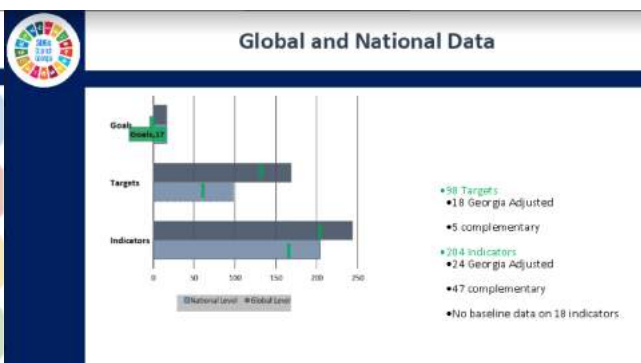
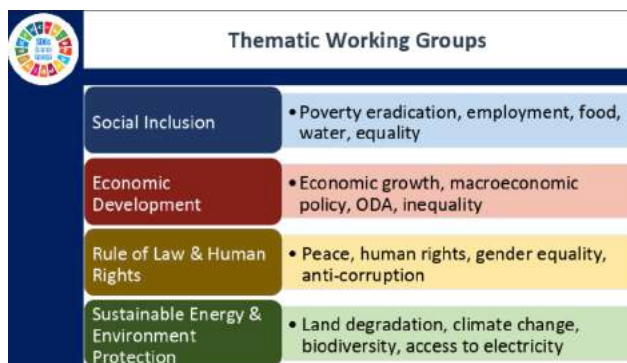
**Nino Tkhlava** Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, presented the first Voluntary National Report on SDGs which Georgia presented to the High Level Political Forum in 2016 as one of the first pilot countries to do so.



**Tamar Aldashvili** Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, presented how Georgia has 'localized' the Sustainable Development Goals, Targets and Indicators, by aligning them with national laws and programmes, as well as other international commitments such as the adoption of EU regulations into national legislative frameworks. The SDGs and EU frameworks as well as other UN commitments fit will together. The ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture has the lead on the implementation and monitoring of several of the SDGs, namely SDG 11,12,13, 14 and 15.



She also presented the organization of the process which ensures the coordination amongst ministries as well as the cooperation with stakeholders. In 2017 the SDG-Council was set up and thematic **Working Groups** were established on (i) **Social Inclusion**, (ii) **Economic Development**, (iii) **Democratic Governance**, and (iv) **Sustainable Energy and Environmental Protection**. The Thematic Working Groups ensure inter-linkages between the 17 SDGs is ensured. Georgia had now 'nationalized' all **17 goals** and **98 targets**, including adding additional one's and is still working on final indicators.

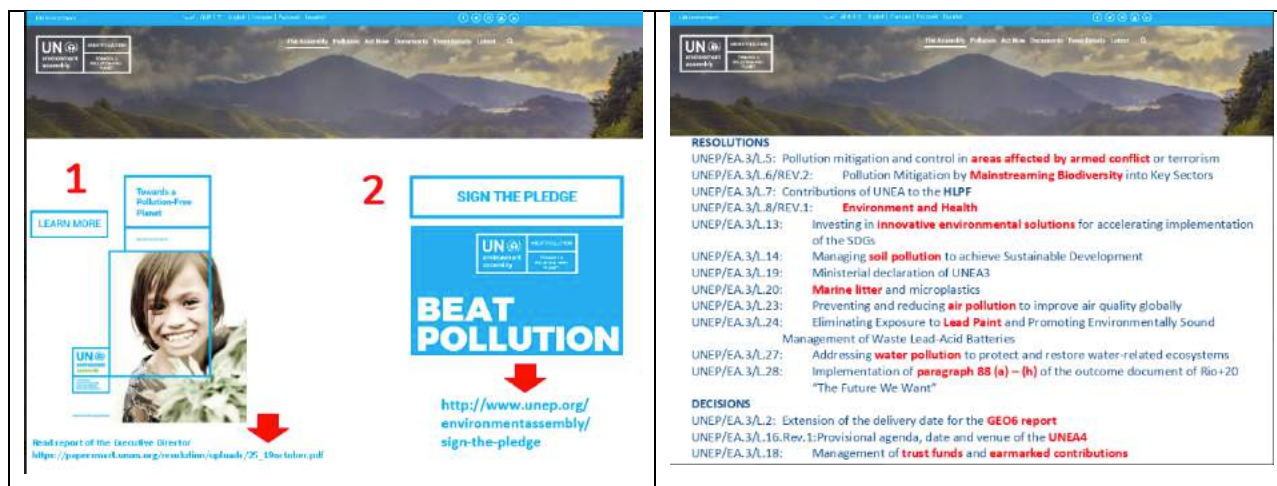


The presentation was followed by questions and contributions from the participants Georgia.

The presentations and power-points have been made available to all participants, and simultaneous translation into English, Russian and Romanian was provided.

## Briefing on the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) at Regional and Global levels

**Wondwosen Asnake**, UN Environment, presented the Outcome of the HLPF 2017, the preparations for HLPF 2018 and the outcomes of the UN Environment Assembly 2017 with a focus on Towards a Pollution Free Planet. He presented how the theme of the 3<sup>rd</sup> United Nations Environment Assembly on a pollution-free planet is based on the healthy people, healthy planet approach, a prerequisite for sustainable economic and social development. He explained how at UNEA important resolutions and decisions were negotiated, including on ending land-based pollution of oceans with marine litter and micro-plastics, on protecting water sources, phasing out lead in paint, and improving air quality.



**1** **LEARN MORE** **Towards a Pollution-Free Planet**

**2** **SIGN THE PLEDGE** **BEAT POLLUTION**

<http://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/sign-the-pledge>

**RESOLUTIONS**

- UNEP/E.A.3/L.5: Pollution mitigation and control in **areas affected by armed conflict** or terrorism
- UNEP/E.A.3/L.6/REV.2: Pollution Mitigation by **Mainstreaming Biodiversity** into Key Sectors
- UNEP/E.A.3/L.7: Contributions of UNEA to the HLPF
- UNEP/E.A.3/L.8/REV.1: **Environment and Health**
- UNEP/E.A.3/L.13: Investing in **innovative environmental solutions** for accelerating implementation of the SDGs
- UNEP/E.A.3/L.14: Managing **soil pollution** to achieve Sustainable Development
- UNEP/E.A.3/L.19: Ministerial declaration of UNEA3
- UNEP/E.A.3/L.20: **Marine litter** and microplastics
- UNEP/E.A.3/L.23: Preventing and reducing **air pollution** to improve air quality globally
- UNEP/E.A.3/L.24: Eliminating Exposure to **Lead Paint** and Promoting Environmentally Sound Management of Waste Lead-Acid Batteries
- UNEP/E.A.3/L.27: Addressing **water pollution** to protect and restore water-related ecosystems
- UNEP/E.A.3/L.28: Implementation of **paragraph 88 (a) – (h)** of the outcome document of Rio+20 "The Future We Want"

**DECISIONS**

- UNEP/E.A.3/L.2: Extension of the delivery date for the **GEO6 report**
- UNEP/E.A.3/L.16/Rev.1: Provisional agenda, date and venue of the **UNEA4**
- UNEP/E.A.3/L.18: Management of **trust funds** and **earmarked contributions**

## ALIGNING NATIONAL ACTIONS WITH THE 6<sup>TH</sup> MINISTERIAL E&H CONFERENCE

Every 6 years the Ministers of Environment and Health meet under auspices of the WHO-Europe and the UNECE to agree on needed actions to improve the environmental health situation in the region. The 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health took place in Ostrava, Czech Republic, in June 2017, and resulted in the "Ostrava Declaration" and the "Compendium of Actions".

Each country in the WHO-Europe region is asked to present by the end of the year 2018, the national portfolio of actions, chosen from 7 focus areas.

Sascha Gabizon, **WECF International**, presented the Ostrava Outcomes, the Ministerial Declaration and the Compendium of Actions with its seven focus areas.

She also presented the **Civil Society Position paper**, which insisted on a continued focus on groups most vulnerable to environmental pollution to their health, in particular children, elderly and parents of reproductive age.

She described the importance of engaging all stakeholders of civil society in understanding the link between environmental pollution and health impacts, and how CSOs contributed to the 6<sup>th</sup>



Environmental Conference on Environment and Health in Ostrava, with side events, films made by youth delegates, and positions statements presented in the plenary session to the delegates. WECF coordinates the women's and environmental organisations in this policy process.

She presented as an example the youth film on how to reduce health risks from waste pollution, as well as how civil society organisations like WECF have pioneered new technologies to ensure wastewater management (constructed wetlands with sand and reed plants) and hygienic sanitation in schools and kindergartens with decentralized and affordable technologies. These ecological waste water systems allow hygienic treatment and reuse of wastewater and nutrients in agriculture.



Wondwosen Asnake, **UN Environment** presented the work of UN Environment on environment health and a pollution-free planet. He presented the translations into Georgian language of some key documents including 6 infographs on different themes such as Marine Litter and E-Waste (see images), as well as the Global Chemicals Outlook and the report “Towards a Pollution Free Planet”, which shows how each of the 17 SDD Goals have environmental and health dimensions.



## CASE STUDY PRESENTATION – LESSONS LEARNED FROM GEORGIA

Noe Megrelashvili, Maia Tskharadze and Irma Gurguliani of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture presented three case studies linking environment and health dimensions of sustainable development.

**Air Pollution:** *Noe Megrelishvili* presented a case study on air pollution as a health risk.

In average for the region, **50% of people's deaths result from air pollution**. The source of this pollution needs to be established. Georgia is adopting EU regulation on air quality monitoring and has started to make measurements in cities and from factories, but not all of them. So far the focus of the monitoring is on a number of air pollutants including NO<sub>x</sub> and small particles, of which the greatest **emissions come from vehicles**. To reduce this type of air pollution, it will be necessary to reduce traffic, especially in cities.

In the following discussion, civil society mentioned that so far no attention was given to **air pollution in rural areas, in particular indoor air pollution** from burning of firewood and sometimes even plastic waste (for heating and cooking). Air pollution from waste burning in the open is another source that needs urgent action. Modern standards and action plans need to be developed for improving the situation.

**Climate Change:** *Maia Tskhvaradze* presented the case study on climate change as a health risk.

Ms Tskhvaradze presented how Climate change and the disasters related to it, are the biggest threat to our global economy as well as our health. She presented the “Paris Agreement” and how Georgia’s national policies and legal framework are integrating the agreement. Georgia will reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions by 25% till 2030.

She also presented the close link to the health dimension, with examples about vulnerable groups and health risks from heat waves and climate-change related disasters such as floods and landslides. There is a close coordination with the health sector in Georgia and several programs on Climate Adaptation to reduce these health risks.

**Chemicals and waste management:** *Irma Gurguliani* presented the case study on the health risk of chemicals and waste.

Ms Gurguliani presented the legal framework for chemicals and waste management. On-going activities are related to technical assistance for the improvement of waste system management in Georgia including a feasibility study for the construction of a hazardous waste landfill. The is need for expert assistance to improve the national legislative framework on chemical safety, and to develop a unified register and database of imported, used and exported hazardous chemicals. More training for staff of local and national authorities is needed on chemical safety in particular of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

## EXISTING GOOD PRACTICES IN GEORGIA

The second day focused on drawing lessons from existing good practices in Georgia followed by working groups that looked at formulating recommendations for integrated implementation and monitoring of the environmental and health targets of the 2030 Agenda and the Ostrava compendium of actions.

The first session included good practice presentations presented by the Ministry of Environment and Agriculture, the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs, and the one of the Water Supply Companies.

The second part of the session included good practice presentations by civil society organizations, on safe and healthier water, energy, sanitation, agriculture solutions as well as reducing morbidity from tobacco smoking.

**Food safety and nutrition:** *Ketevan Lapherashvili*, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture presented how Georgia is adopting EU regulation in the area of food safety and consumer information and labeling.

**Water and sanitation:** *Mariam Kharazishvili*, United Water Supply Company of Georgia presented the work of her company, and that the protection of human health from adverse effects of any contamination of drinking water is an obligation which they have to fulfil, in line with the EU water directives on drinking and wastewater and meeting other international agreements (SDGs) and standards (WHO).

Some of the activities are control and monitoring of water quality with laboratory networks meeting the international standards; comprehensive water quality investigations on organoleptic, physical-chemical and microbiological indicators. The water company is working on 9 large-scale construction-rehabilitation projects of water infrastructure over the next several years with a focus on the more densely populated areas.

*Nana Gabriadze*, Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs was planned to present activities in the area of environment and health, as focal point for the WHO Environmental Health process, but as the program was overtime she had to leave before she could give her presentation.

*Rusudan Simonidze*, the Greens Movement of Georgia, presented their priorities and best practices for implementing the SDGs. A main concern is the potential conflict between on the one hand the construction of large infrastructure (SDG9) but in eco-sensitive areas, so putting at risk biodiversity (SDG15), water sources (SDG6) and soils (SDG2,13). Alternatives which are more environmentally friendly need to be analysed and included in the strategic planning, instead of only going with the usual, unsustainable, practices. She presented how her organisation Greens Movement has demonstrated alternative sustainable infrastructure in the area of solar energy and sustainable sanitation.

In terms of access to water and improved sanitation in Eastern Georgia, the region of Batumi started to introduce access of water in rural areas, as well proper sewage system in order to decrease the wastewater discharged in the Black Sea without treatment. So far this does not exist in other rural areas in other regions. This is an example which should be expanded to all regions.

*Rostom Gamisonia*, Rural Community Development Agency, presented best practices of rural sustainable development which contribute to achieving SDG 1 (poverty reduction), SDG 2 (sustainable agriculture), SDG 6 (safe sanitation), SDG 7 (sustainable energy), SDG 12 (waste and waste water management), reduced pollution of water ways and seas (SDG14) and protection of ecosystems and forests (SDG 15). He gave examples of energy cooperatives that produce solar water heaters, briquettes from waste-biomass, energy efficient stoves, solar food driers etc.

*Vakho Kochoradze*, CENN (Caucasus Environmental News Network), shared that there are about 130 projects in the Caucasus region being implemented on sustainable development,



and that CENNs role is to help with sharing the information and the outcomes of the projects. CENNs projects include resource management, green economy, waste management and WASH.

**Giorgi Bakhturidze, Tobacco Control Alliance, Georgia.** Some 300 children die each year from indoor air pollution linked to a.o. passive smoking. Some 25% of total mortality in Georgia is caused by smoking, which is not only a human tragedy, but also a great loss of productivity and cost for society and the economy. The best way to decrease smoking is to ban smoking in public places, and finally after many years of advocacy, a new law will be in force as of Spring 2018, banning smoking in public places. Unfortunately the tobacco industry shows everywhere its products, especially with advertisements on billboards and they target in particular new users, youth and women. The next step needed is to ban tobacco advertisement, as many EU countries have already done.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WORKING GROUP

The participants worked in different working groups on drawing lessons and formulating recommendations.

### Energy, Climate Change and Cities

*Linked to:*

**SDG 7 Energy**

**SDG 11 Cities**

**SDG 13 Climate Change**

**EHP Ostrave Action areas: a. Air Quality, e. Climate Change, f. Cities**

- Develop a legal framework for the low emission development strategy
- Adopt climate monitoring and reporting methodology, in order to reduce CO2 emissions to 20 %
- Develop electric transport and promote the use of bicycles
- Campaign to stop using fire wood and how to switch to efficient and cleaner energy sources, especially in kindergartens and other child-settings
- Develop relevant emission reduction plans adapted to the situation in Georgia



➤ **Proposed specific Ostrava National Portfolio target:**

1. **traffic reduction** measures at 100% of kindergarten, schools, playgrounds and health centers by 2023 (*diesel-vehicle free zones, car-free zones, 30 KM zones, one-way traffic, enlarged footpath and bicycle paths, speed bumps, stop lights*)
2. **clean energy support program** for 100% of rural households and health centers to stop use of wood and waste as fuel for heating/cooking by 2023 (*subsidies and fiscal incentives for installing solar heaters, energy-efficient stoves and insulation*)

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Linked to:

**SDG 6 Water and Sanitation**

**EHP Ostrave Action areas: b. Water & Sanitation**

- Sustainable technologies are important for clean water supply;
- Develop a unified strategy and long term action plan for water and sanitary facilities;
- Create a good monitoring system and the responsible entities for small water supply system, on which 70% of the population depends
- Amend the sewage regulation and create codes for ecological waste water treatment
- UN related documents to be ratified, carrying out second stage of implementation.
- Adjust existing WATSAN Action plans with as priority water and sanitary facilities in kindergartens and schools where they currently do not exist / are in bad shape (majority)



### ➤ **Proposed specific Ostrava National Portfolio target:**

**1.Create a national code / legislation for decentralized, ecological technologies\* for waste water and sanitation by 2020** (\* *low-flow / small sewage or dry UDD school toilets, constructed wetlands and wastewater ponds*)

**2.Toilets and water in 100% of rural kindergartens and schools by 2023** (*school toilets, handwashing basins, soap, and menstrual hygiene basic facilities such as waste baskets, doors in toilets including through a specific school-toilet-fund*)

## Chemicals and Waste

Linked to:

**SDG 12 Sustainable Production and Consumption**

**EHP Ostrave Action areas: c. Chemicals d. Waste**

- Reduce use of dangerous chemicals, create regulation for chemical safety
- Inventory of asbestos and lead and regulation to protect people who work with the asbestos and asbestos waste
- Trainings of stakeholders to stop the burning of plastics and about the exposure to chemicals
- Awareness raising on management of waste should be a priority and needs to be funded
- Development alternatives to plastic
- Promote green business and award eco-design
- Training of authorities and stakeholders on chemical hazards and safer chemical and waste management

➤ **Proposed specific Ostrava National Portfolio target:**

1. **Stop burning of waste** and clean-up and close all open-waste dumps and all hazardous waste sites in the vicinity of kindergartens, schools and health-centers by 2023 (*\* containment of toxic waste, deposits on plastics and pesticides for safe waste management, increased fines and strict enforcement, separate collection*)

Stakeholder partnerships and joint monitoring and implementation

**SDG 16 Good Governments**

**SDG 17 Partnerships and Financing for Sustainable Development**

**SDG 5 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

- Create a Civil Society platform for SDGs implementation
- Set up an environmental fund
- Exchange and offer expertise between ministries and civil societies;
- Permanent environmental and health education and awareness raising campaign
- Better statistical data needed for policy development;
- Ensure all SDG and EHP programs are implemented in a gender-responsive manner





## Social and Gender Equality Dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals 21 February 2018

On the 21 February 2018 an additional half-day workshop focused on the social and gender-equality dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goal, with a special focus on SDG5, aiming to set the ways of achieving meaningful progress in political and economic empowerment of women in Georgia by 2030. This policy dialogue was co-organized by WECF in cooperation with the Institute for Democracy, UNDP, UNEP and the Swedish Embassy.

**Mariam Jajanidze, Advisor at the Human Rights Secretariat of the Government of Georgia and the Secretary of the Inter-Agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women, and Domestic Violence** spoke at the opening of the meeting and stressed that SDG5 is connected with all national policies. "Important work has been done by Georgia to ensure that all SDGs have gender-sensitive indicators. Following the national agenda 2030, the country will take effective steps to increase women's economic participation, promote equal economic opportunities for women and men, advance gender balance in decision making, and end violence against women and girls," Jajanidze said.



**Sascha Gabizon, Executive Director of Women Engage for a Common Future – WECF International**, presented the on-going work of the Women2030 program by WECF and partners of the Women's Major Group at the UN. Women2030 is a

program in 50 countries engaging gender experts and women's rights movements in the implementation of the SDGs. She noted the role of gender equality in the process of democratic transformation: "The real social-economic transformation requires the achievement of the SDGs till 2030 in Georgia, and the key lever is gender-equality," she said.

**Helena Sancho, Deputy Head of Development Co-operation at the Embassy of Sweden** in Georgia addressed the limited access to economic resources of women in Georgia, as well as the persisting gender pay gap and the unequal distribution of unpaid labour.



**Levan Avalishvili**, Programs Director of the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI), the low representation of women in decision-making. There has been no progress since the last two national elections of the parliament, **only 15%** of parliamentarians are women. A Task Force has been created with members from different organisations including UN agencies and WECF, which are promoting a legislation to increase women in the national parliament and local councils.

**Nini Dolidze** of IRI (International Republican Institute) presented that currently there is not one women governor, **and only 1 woman mayor**, and very few women were elected into local government councils. Clearly when women are so strongly in a minority, there will not be an influence on decision making. Women need to be represented at least by 30%, preferably 50%, to ensure that the Sustainable Development Goal 5 can be achieved.

**Maia Kuprava, UNDP** of the Task Force presented the draft law for gender balance on electoral lists. This law would require from all political parties to present electoral lists with gender parity, where candidates with a different gender following each other. This will help achieve greater parity, and has been implemented already in numerous other countries such as France. This is not the first time a draft law is presented to parliament for vote, but this time, more than **37,000 people signed** the appeal for this gender-parity law to be adopted. Clearly, this is also an aim of SDG 5.



## Cooperation and Partnership for the SDGs

**Gigi Bregadze, Democratic Governance Team Leader of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** in Georgia, focused on cooperation and partnership for the SDGs. “The sustainable development agenda provides Georgia with the unique opportunity to make a major step forward and eliminate gender inequalities in all aspects of life. This, however, requires a collective effort of the Georgian society, coordinated work of the government, non-governmental and private sectors, and the media, supported by Georgia’s international partners,” Bregadze said.

**Tamar Sabedashvili, UN Women Georgia**, recalled that the UN has a joint program for Gender Equality lead by UN Women, UNFPA and UNDP and that much more needs to be done in Georgia urgently to address the great gender inequalities and gender based violence which are a day to day reality for women in the country.

**Wondwosen Asnake, UN Environment**, presented the Gender Equality Plan of UN-Environment, and the commitments made by its leadership, including ending all sexual harassment, promoting gender parity including in the highest positions, and not allowing any all-male-panels of experts. Mr. Asnake also presented the flagship publication “**Global Gender Environment Outlook**” bringing the latest science on gender dimensions of environmental policy areas such as oceans, forests, climate, energy, water and agriculture. Finally, he noted that UN Environment hosts the secretariat for the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment. A 100 network members met during UNEA3 in December 2017 in Nairobi, and formulated a Call for Action on Gender & Pollution.



**Nana Chabukiani, *We Research***, a gender research institute in Georgia, and **Elena Rusetskaya of *Women Information Centre*** Georgia, presented the Gender Assessment which they carried out in 2017 as part of the Women2030 program. The research shows gender gaps in particular in unpaid care work which is mostly done by women (up to 4 times more time spent by women than men), as well as inequalities in access to resources such as land and finances.

Gender Based Violence is a main problem, and requires strong policy measures in order to achieve the SDG 5 targets of ending violence against women and girls.



**Anke Stock, *WECF***, presented the coordination of the Gender Assessments from the different countries and how the policy recommendations are used to feed back into the national and international 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development process, including through alternative CSO reports to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF).

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The policy dialogue concluded with the following recommendations on how to Ensure Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment as a core transformative power for the implementation of the Agenda2030 in Georgia:

### **Sustainable Development Goal 5, SDG target 5.1-3 :**

The #MeToo movement has shown that only the tip of the iceberg of **(sexual) violence against women and girls** is known. Georgia experiences numerous femicides (killing of women, including transgender women) every year, persecution of the prepertrators and much better protection of women in vulnerable situations including through shetlers, hotlines and juridical and economic support is needed.

Georgia still has **early and forced marriage** of girls under 18 years of age among some of the rural and ethnic minority communities, which requires specific program on awareness and training in these areas in cooperation with authorities and women's rights organisations.

Gender based discrimination needs to be addressed including through how women's rights are portrayed in media and advertisement.

**SDG target 5.4.** Women in Georgia spend many more hours on **unpaid domestic and care work** than men. This burden on women needs to be redistributed and more equality shared with men, and with the state institutions, including through the right to pre-school child care, access to water, sanitation and energy to reduce the burden on women of providing water and firewood.

**SDG target 5.5. and 5.c** Women in Georgia are greatly underrepresented in decision making at all levels. Decades of voluntary measures have not been effective, thus legislation is required to



ensure gender-parity in electoral lists, and legal requirements for women in private sector decision making. WECF Georgia and Greens Movement presented the example of the 'gender equitable energy cooperatives', where the statutes of the company call for gender parity at all levels of the organisation.



**SDG target 5.6.** Women's sexual and reproductive rights and health is not yet ensured, and requires comprehensive sexuality education and awareness raising on gender stereotypes in schools, media and advertisement.

**SDG target 5.a.** Women in Georgia have very little access and control over land tenure, which needs and strengthening of the land rights regulation and improved processing of land tenure demands.

**Key gender dimensions of the other SDGs** in Georgia include health (menstrual hygiene, SRHR), cities (safety, accessibility), jobs (equal pay, vocational training), climate (adaptation, vulnerable groups), energy and water (access to sustainable energy, water and sanitation) and more.

## PRESS AND MEDIA

The National Workshop was covered on social media and mainstream media.

- On #Georgian TV: გენდერულ საკითხებთან დაკავშირებული შეხვედრა <https://youtu.be/c17QQUFARfA> via @YouTube
- ✓ რუსთავი 2: <http://rustavi2.ge/ka/news/97296>
- ✓ 1 არხი: <https://1tv.ge/news/genderuli-utanasworobis-aghmofkhvris-sakitkhze-shekhvedra-gaimarta/>
- ✓ დიბერადი: <http://liberali.ge/news/view/34466/genderuli-tanastsoroba-mdgradi-ganvitarebis-dghis-tsesrigshi--raze-isaubres-shekhvedraze>
- ✓ ობიექტივი: <https://youtu.be/0sNwh7oxxf0>
- ✓ ინტერპრესნიუსი: <http://www.interpressnews.ge/ge/sazogadoeba/479016-garemosa-dajamrthelobas-shoris-urthierthkavshiris-shesakheb-shekhvedraze-imsjeles.html?ar=A>
- [https://idfi.ge/en/gender\\_equality\\_key\\_to\\_sustainable\\_development](https://idfi.ge/en/gender_equality_key_to_sustainable_development)
- <https://www.facebook.com/IDFI.official/posts/1702029726520797>
- <https://www.facebook.com/IDFI.official/posts/1701975196526250>

- <https://twitter.com/IDFIGeorgia/status/966324523137163264>

Further information about the event was placed on the website of:

WECF twitter account and website [www.wecf.eu](http://www.wecf.eu) and @wecf\_int  
Tweet

[https://twitter.com/WECF\\_INT/status/965544927315808256](https://twitter.com/WECF_INT/status/965544927315808256)

Facebook post

<https://www.facebook.com/WECF.INTERNATIONAL/posts/10155943426155977>

Instagram

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## ANNEXES

Annex 1: Agenda National Workshop Environment and Health Linkages

Annex 2: Participant list 19 and 20 February 2018

Annex 3: Agenda Workshop on Gender and Social dimensions of SDGs in Georgia

Annex 4: Participant list 21 February 2018

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