

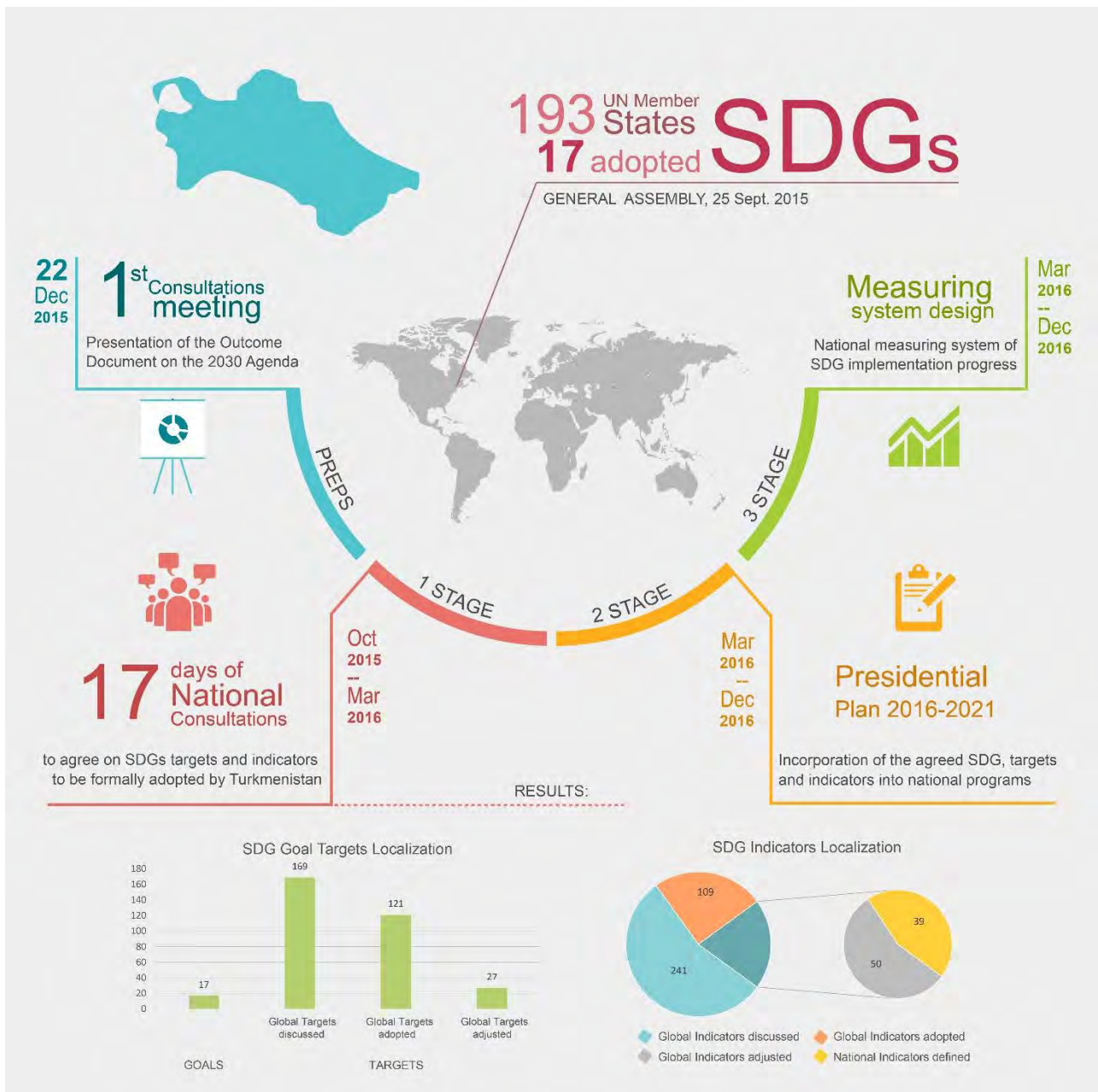
A STRUCTURED APPROACH TO SDG ROLL-OUT

17 days of consultations to identify
the goals, targets and indicators to be
adopted in Turkmenistan



Soon after the universal adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015, Turkmenistan has actively embarked on the nationalization process of the Sustainable Development Goals, its targets and indicators by designing a structured approach entailing three stages, as indicated in the chart and described below. The process provided a unique opportunity for the UN family and national stakeholders to consider meticulously the relevance and importance of the 2030 Agenda framework for the country, implementation prospects, challenges on the way and potential impacts.

A detailed account of the on- the ground nationalization process implemented in Turkmenistan is provided below.



CONTEXT

WHAT AND HOW?

- On 25 September 2015, during the UN Summit, the world community unanimously adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development resulting from the bottom-up consultation process launched by the UN Secretary General three years ago. The 2030 Agenda with 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets at its core has reflected the noble ambition of the community of nations to make the world we live in peaceful, more prosperous, safe and sustainable.
- Turkmenistan actively participated in this process by hosting 2 rounds of national consultations on **what** the post-2015 agenda focuses on and **how** to implement the future global framework. Also, the Government of Turkmenistan made its contribution to the intergovernmental discussions on the means of implementation and measuring the SDGs. And finally, the Turkmen President while attending the UN Summit, extended his support to the 2030 Agenda and conveyed the country's commitment to realize the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The UN System in Turkmenistan has consistently over the past three years advocated for the Government to engage with the new SDG agenda because the MDG framework had never been formally integrated into national policies, and no national MDG report was submitted. This advocacy provided an opportunity for the UN Country Team (UNCT) to discuss many aspects of the SDG agenda, including formal adoption of SDGs and targets, their integration into the national programmes and sector plans, defining measuring systems as well as stressing the importance of research, making evidence-based decisions, data revolution, including disaggregation, data access and sharing aspects.

APPROACH

UNCT advocated for the in-depth 3-stage roll-out process to:

- Assist the government to go through a formal process to identify what goals, targets and indicators it will adopt over the next 15 years;
- Provide an opportunity for capacity development by discussing in depth what each goal, target and indicator is about;
- Discuss sensitive targets and indicators that would otherwise not be discussed;
- Build a trusting relationship with Government so that they feel comfortable to work with us going forward.

Approach

3-Stage Approach

Stages/Actions	Expected Results	Timeframe
<p>Stage One: Conduct national consultations with key sector ministries to agree on the adoption of the universal 17 SDG goals and 169 targets and 241 indicators that are relevant for Turkmenistan.</p>	<p><u>A list of</u> agreed SDGs, targets and indicators agreed for submission to COM for approval</p>	<p>October 2015 – March 2016</p>
<p>Stage Two:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Integrate</u> the adopted SDGs, targets and indicators into the 5-year Presidential Programme for 2017-2021 2. <u>Integrate</u> the adopted SDGs, targets and indicators into targeted sectoral plans and strategies 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>The Presidential Programme</u> prepared using the SDG framework 2. <u>Targeted sectoral plans and strategies have integrated</u> SDG targets and indicators where appropriate 	<p>March 2016 – December 2016</p>
<p>Stage Three:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define in detail the measuring systems (including upgrades) required to measure progress in targeted SDGs, targets and indicators in targeted Line ministries 2. Define in detail the measuring systems (including upgrades) required, to measure progress in SDGs, targets and indicators in the State Statistics Committee 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Targeted line ministries have defined in detail the upgrades required in their statistical system to measure progress in the implementation of SDG targets and indicators. <i>Upgrades will be implemented in 2017 onwards</i> 2. The State Statistics Committee has defined in detail the upgrades required to their statistical system to measure progress in the implementation of SDG targets and indicators. <i>Upgrades will be implemented in 2017 onwards</i> 	<p>March 2016 – December 2016</p>

PROCESS

UNCT started with establishing a joint UN-Government SDG TASK Group. The Group approved the three stage rollout process and actions began. An introductory meeting was held with all stakeholders in December 2015. The purpose of the meeting was as follows:

- To introduce the 2030 Agenda, its vision, 5 Ps and 6 principles;
- To discuss what the 2030 Agenda was about, why such ambitious framework was adopted and what is expected from countries in terms of their localization going forward.
- To agree how to rollout Stage One. 17 days were agreed for Stage One consultations, i.e. one goal per day.

Stage One: 17 days of Consultations in March 2016

- A. Involved in-depth discussions (one goal each day), co-led by the relevant line minister and a UN agency where the SDGs targets and indicators were discussed and those recommended for adopting defined.
- B. Provided an opportunity to adjust SDGs or define national indicators.
- C. On average 9 to 10 national ministries and departments were represented at each meeting with 20-25 people attending the discussions.
- D. Included two representatives from the National Statistical Office in every meeting during the 17 days in March.

This approach ensured continuity of discussions and contributed to enhancing ownership of the process.

CHALLENGES AND RISKS

CHALLENGES:

Global Indicator Framework and Metadata: When the consultations started, the final list of global indicators was not yet approved. This affected the preparation stage. UNCT was in close contact with the HQ to have as much information available as possible. The UN agencies made use of existing metadata provided globally to help them facilitate the consultations. However, the metadata was not complete for each indicator and the experts were unable to make certain decisions.

Presidential Plan: Stage 2 envisages integrating the SDGs, targets and indicators into the next Presidential Socio-Economic Plan 2017-2021. This means that Line ministries will need to have agreed the targets and indicators they want to be included for the period 2017- 2021 by June 2016. This will be a challenge.

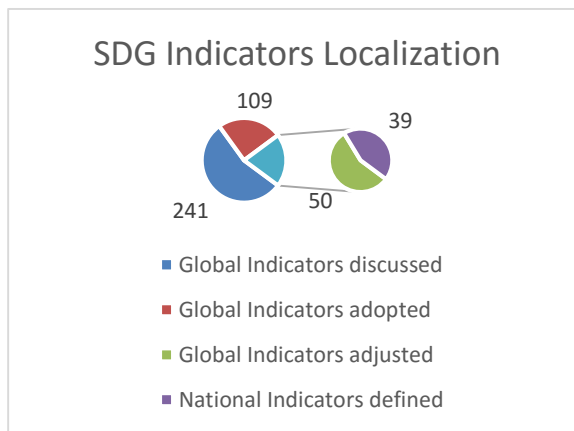
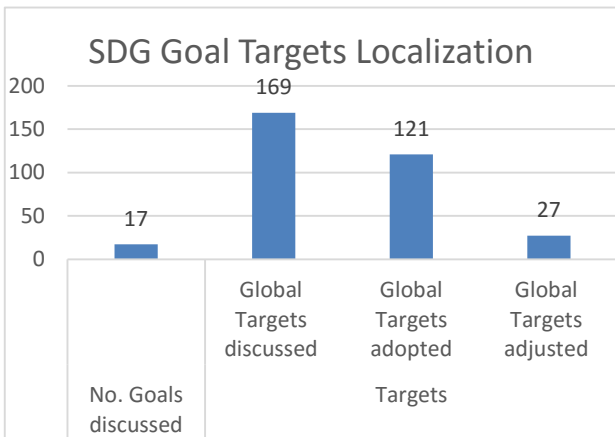
Risks

- **UNCT supporting consultations on all 17 goals:** There were many risks. One day may not be sufficient to really go into depth for all targets and indicators associated with a goal.
- **UNCT supporting consultations on a select numbers of goals.** The UNCT could also have decided to support only the goals, targets and indicators according to their mandates for the first stage of consultations. However, it was agreed that this could end up with the government only focusing on these SDGs, targets and indicators and this would be a problem for long-term development of the country.

OUTCOMES

- **Targets:** 121 out of 169 global targets were recommended for adoption without modification and additional 27 targets were modified. Total 148
- **Indicators:** 109 of the 241 global indicators were recommended for adoption without modification, 50 were modified. In addition, 39 national indicators were formulated. Total 197 indicators
- This list of recommendations will go to the Cabinet of Ministers for formal approval.

Results



Outcomes

LESSONS LEARNED

- Going through the process of **identifying** what SDG goals that Turkmenistan will adopt to implement over the next 15 years was a vital **preparatory step** before implementation and facilitated many issues to be discussed.
- The consultation raised the key issue of who should be the overall coordinating body for SDGs in the country. This will now be discussed at length in the coming weeks.
- National ownership is the key and UN agencies support was vital in this regard. Agreeing that each Goal would be co-led by a line ministry and a UN agency proved a great success.
- Extensive preparation by the co-leads helped the discussions. Strong moderation and leadership by lead ministry on the day was important.

Presence of right national experts helped in defending and agreeing to the global targets and indicators. Such experts referred the participants to the relevant national strategies, international treaties and agreements that Turkmenistan is a party to containing Turkmenistan international commitments.

- Most of the SDG indicators are new and most still do not have methodologies for measurement. Participants were reluctant to agree to recommend an indicator to be adopted unless they knew how to measure the indicator. They were assured this would be discussed in depth during the 3rd stage of the SDG rollout process. In addition, a number of national indicators were proposed where methodologies were known.
- The meetings triggered discussions of sensitive issues (like discrepancy in data, HIV and AIDS indicators) and were a good opportunity to develop capacities and openly exchange views.
- The meetings facilitated ministries to have inter—sectoral discussions on sensitive topics and “ an all of government approach “ to SDGs
- Stage 1 is a natural step to stage 2 which is to INTEGRATE SDGs into national plans and sectors plans. This too is a preparatory step before implementation begins and very important. This stage has started.
- The National Statistical Office questioned the line ministries’ readiness to collect data and report on some indicators. Their inputs in each of the 17 meetings was critical to assist participants to look in- depth at each indicator, its methodology and baseline availability. All data / measuring SDG related issues will be addressed in Stage 3 which will definite in detail the measuring systems (including upgrades) required to measure progress in targeted SDGs, targets and indicators in targeted, (see above). This stage has just started.

NEXT STEPS

- The List of SD goals targets and indicators will be sent to the Cabinet of Ministers for approval.
- Rollout Stage Two: Support the Ministry of Economy and Development to integrate the adopted SDGs, targets and indicators into the 5-year Presidential Programme for 2017-2021.
- Support Line ministries to integrate the adopted SDGs, targets and indicators into targeted sectoral plans and strategies.
- Negotiations are currently underway to agree the Process Plans for these stages.

Annex I. Recommendations from the SDG Consultations

SDG NO: _____

Target No.	Globally agreed SDG target	Indicate (Yes/ NO) the relevant target to be adopted by Turkmenistan or state the modified target	Insert the relevant global indicator to be adopted by Turkmenistan (i.e. without adjusted)	Insert the relevant global indicator to be adopted by Turkmenistan (i.e. adjusted to local context)	Insert any additional national indicator to be adopted	Insert the most relevant 2030 socio-economic Indicator	Comments
1			1				
			2				
			3				
			Etc.				
2			1				
			2				
			3				
			Etc.				
3			1				
			2				

			3				
			Etc.				
4			1				
			2				
			3				
			Etc.				
5			1				
			2				
			3				
			Etc.				
6			1				
			2				
			3				
			Etc.				
etc			1				
			2				
			3				
			Etc.				

Annex II. The list of consultation meetings on SDG goals, targets and indicators to be adopted by Turkmenistan

Goal	Lead Ministry/Focal Points	UN Agency	Consultations date
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere	Ministry of Economy and Development	UNICEF	10 March
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources	UNDP	15 March
Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all stages	Ministry of Health and Medical Industry	WHO	3 March
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Ministry of Education	UNICEF/ UNESCO	11 March
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	National Institute of Democracy and Human Rights	UN Women	17 March
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Ministry of Municipal Services	UNDP	16 March
Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Ministry of Oil and Gas and Industry	UNDP	18 March
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Ministry of Labour and Social Protection Ministry of Economy and Development	UNFPA	22-23 March
Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Ministry of Economy and Development	WB	28 March
Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries	Ministry of Economy and Development	IOM	25 March

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	To be decided by GOV side	WHO	14 March
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	State Committee for Environment Protection and Land Resources	UNDP	9 March
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	State Committee for Environment Protection and Land Resources	UNDP	4 March
Goal 14. Conserve and sustainable use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	State Committee for Environment Protection and Land Resources	UNDP	4 March
Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	State Committee for Environment Protection and Land resources	UNDP	2 March
Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	Ministry of Internal Affairs Office of the Prosecutor General	UNODC	24 March
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	Ministry of Finance + Ministry of Economy and Development	WB	31 March