

REPORT OF THE POLITICAL FORUM

INTEGRATION OF THE AGENDA 2030 ON THE STRATEGIC PLANNING
FRAMEWORK AND STEPS FORWARD





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Acronyms

AKM - Association of Kosovo Municipalities

BMZ - German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

CSR - Corporate Social Responsibility

EU - European Union

GIZ - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

HANDIKOS - Association of Paraplegics and Paralyzed Children of Kosova

INDEP - Institute for Development Policy

KAS - Kosovo Agency of Statistics

MFLT - Ministry of Finance, Labor and Transfers

MIET - Ministry of Industry, Entrepreneurship and Trade

NALAS - Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe

OSP - Office of Strategic Planning

SDC - Sustainable Development Council

SDGs - Sustainable Development Goals

UNDP - United Nations Development Program

UNKT - United Nations Kosovo Team

VNR - Voluntary National Review

WHO - World Health Organization

Introduction

To rapidly advance the 2030 Agenda and achieve a sustainable future for all, comprehensive and proactive engagement from various stakeholders is required. This includes important actors, such as central and local institutions, international and local organizations, private sector entities, and active participation by academia. This globally-applied whole-of-society approach guarantees at a minimum the promotion and the proper review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. As Kosovo is not a member of the United Nations, it is under no obligation to implement and report on the 2030 Agenda and the fulfillment of the SDGs, but Kosovo has already started to take slow steps towards its involvement in the implementation of this Agenda, but it is still lagging behind in raising awareness as well as starting work with more progressive steps in this direction, despite various initiatives taken by local and international actors towards starting work on the implementation of this Agenda. For this reason, the involvement of different actors from different sectors is necessary to advance the 2030 Agenda and ensure the bridging of the clearly visible gaps at the country level for the implementation of the Agenda, as well as in setting up the next steps that need to be taken urgently. The whole-of-society approach, among other things, means the creation of a cooperative bridge between the various stakeholders to enable a productive partnership and concrete steps towards advancing the 2030 Agenda and meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Establishing a dialogue between the new actors involved, as well as improving the dialogue between the traditional stakeholders for the implementation of the Agenda, is an essential step to be taken at a time when awareness on this topic is not yet at the right level.

Through the establishment and solidification of this dialogue between these stakeholders, and through the findings and data collected from these dialogues, it is intended to support the Government in compiling the Voluntary National Review (VNR). This document will provide information on the overall experiences, challenges, lessons learned and successes achieved towards advancing the 2030 Agenda. This document is also an instrument for drafting and strengthening the institutional framework and developing the appropriate strategies and policies to implement the 2030 Agenda. This document will not only show the state of play in Kosovo in relation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, but at the same time would make clear the path of the implementation process of the Agenda. Furthermore, the document would make the level of transparency more visible and would definitely hold relevant institutions and actors accountable for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, given that in the current conditions the responsibility for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda falls solely on the Sustainable Development Council as an informal group in the framework of legislative power.

One of the concrete steps to discuss, propose and work with relevant stakeholders to achieve the above objectives, has been the organization of a major two-day event such as the High-level Political Forum, within which activities such as discussion roundtable with representatives of official institutions of local and central level, international and local organizations, independent agencies and entities from the private sector, were held. They were divided into different working groups and worked together to produce improvement ideas for the coordination mechanism for meeting the SDGs, while also proposing ideas for the integration of this Agenda in each strategic

document of public and private institutions, as well as other ideas on raising awareness at the general level regarding this Agenda.

This report addresses and summarizes all the activities of the high-level political forum held in the framework of regional projects which have been implemented in cooperation with the AKM and are supported by GIZ and NALAS. The report lays out the purpose of the event, the objectives of the event related to those of the project as a whole, the activities within the Forum, as well as the recommendations issued by the working groups. The data collected by this Forum provided the basis for the documentation of the two working groups, and served as a roadmap for the development of further measures and activities at the central level in relation to policy-making, and will provide for concrete actions and steps for establishing coordination between local and central level institutions.

About the project ‘Implementation, monitoring and reporting of the 2030 Agenda in Southeast Europe: the case of Kosovo’

INDEP, since 2019, in cooperation with the AKM has started the implementation of regional projects with a focus on building the capacities of municipalities in the application of the “Comprehensive Approach” social mapping and the process of Localization of SDGs. The **“Social Rights for Vulnerable Groups II” (SoRi II)** regional project has been implemented and continues to be implemented in the Western Balkans region and operates at local, central and regional levels in five Western Balkan countries, namely Kosovo, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro. This regional cooperation is intended to enable the regional exchange of good practices and the development of capacities of relevant public and other actors in the field of social and human rights and the involvement of voluntary groups, through which it aims at meeting the Sustainable Development Goals and advancing the 2030 Agenda. The **“Regional Learning for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Southeast Europe (especially North Macedonia and Kosovo) - SFF 2030 Agenda Project”** aims at improving the conditions for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and related reporting in the Western Balkans through regional exchange, networking and learning (focusing on North Macedonia and Kosovo). Both projects share activities that seek to contribute to the development of capacities of CSO coordinating bodies at the central level, as well as to support municipalities in the development of the capacities for the localization of the SDGs. For the successful implementation of both projects, INDEP has implemented the project in cooperation with the AKM, with which they have cooperated and coordinated operations, especially at the local level. In addition, both projects are supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and also cooperate with the Network of Associations of Local Authorities in Southeast Europe (NALAS) as their joint political partner.

Given that this cooperation project involves different institutions, authorities and organizations, it should be understood that their roles and contributions to this process are different, as are their motives for participating in this process. In this regard, in addition to representing the interests and needs of various social groups, civil society is interested in participating in the 2030 Agenda

implementation process, since it views it as the means to promote its efforts and increase its impact on policy-making. On the other hand, the private sector considers this process as an opportunity to sustainably grow economic entities and become more accountable to society, as well as to build a strong image in the community.

Within these two projects it is proposed to hold a high-level political forum and a national workshop. This joint event contributes to the objectives of the two projects and helps all cooperating partners in achieving the indicators and goals of the respective projects, and aids in achieving the highest level of coordination and cooperation during the political forum and national workshop entitled **‘Integration of 2030 Agenda in the framework of strategic planning in Kosovo and next steps’**

Description and key objectives of the Political Forum and National Workshop

As the main goal of the project implementation is to create conditions for the implementation, monitoring and reporting on the 2030 Agenda and the fulfillment of the SDGs in Kosovo through systematic dialogue and interaction of various relevant stakeholders, the High-level Political Forum was held **on 24 and 25 November, at the Emerald Hotel, Prishtina**. The political forum consisted of roundtables and working groups, through which it was aimed at focusing the attention of institutions on the systematic challenges faced by actors working for an inclusive approach and the establishment of cross-sectoral dialogues involving all relevant actors to advance the Agenda.

In addition, this forum has gathered together different stakeholders, starting from the official institutions of the Republic of Kosovo, international organizations, local civil society organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders involved in the implementation of 2030 Agenda and SDGs in Kosovo; the forum has established a basis for sectoral and inter-institutional coordination and partnership through the signing of a Joint Statement on Cooperation and the drafting of three different reports which will be submitted to the Sustainable Development Council. This event was held in hybrid format, with in-person presence in the hall, and with live broadcast on the social media of the INDEP institute and the AKM organization.



Fig. 1: Sustainable Development Goals Icons

In addition to the first objective which aimed at gathering together in one space and ensuring the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the coordination dialogue for the advancement of the 2030 Agenda, the forum aimed at presenting concrete results from the data collection process by thematic groups for a comprehensive approach at the local level, issuing written recommendations

on the mechanism for improving and exchanging data collected at central and local levels and vice versa, in order to improve policies for advancing the 2030 Agenda, issuing new recommendations for the improvement of the work of the coordinating body for the 2030 Agenda, as well as receiving the pledges of the respective institutions for the continuation of the work in this field through the signing of the *Joint Statements*. Among other things, during the Political Forum, a lecture session was held on the process of drafting the VNR, and the preconditions that must be met to start the review process. This session was held by Ms. Ana Jovanovska, former coordinator for NGOs in the Government of North Macedonia. Participants had the opportunity to hear detailed information on this process and to clarify preliminary doubts about the compilation of this review report. Among other things, during the roundtables it was mentioned that Kosovo has the political will to move forward with this process.

Contribution of participants in roundtables and working groups

To actively contribute and participate, the Forum invited various participants of political and civil staff from the local and central level of the official institutions of the Republic of Kosovo. Other participants were representatives from Independent Agencies, representatives from various international organizations, as well as entities from the private sector. In the two divisions of the Forum, roundtables and working groups, have contributed 80 participants representing central level institutions in Kosovo; representatives of official institutions at the local level, international and local organizations, independent agencies, entities from the private sector, as well as members of the Academia. Also present at the event were representatives of four municipalities that have benefited from workshops on 'Localization of SDGs in Kosovo municipalities' as an activity of this project.



Fig. 2: View from the SDGs Political Forum

The roundtable discussion and the two working groups were composed of the above-mentioned participants. The roundtables discussed various topics, always proposing new ways of cooperation between the relevant institutions in terms of progress, starting from the presentation of social mapping findings in the municipalities of Hani i Elezit and Viti, and the discussion about findings from this report from the relevant stakeholders, and continuing to the next roundtable which addressed the lack of quality data at the country level, focusing more on the data needed to implement the 2030 Agenda and meet the SDGs, a discussion in which participated experts in data collection and processing, relevant institutions and members of the Sustainable Development Council. All of these actors have discussed opportunities to improve this phenomenon. The last roundtable discussion consisted of entities from the private sector, local and international

organizations, brought together to discuss the challenges and opportunities of cross-sectoral cooperation for sustainable development, with a focus on the role of the private sector to contribute to meeting the SDGs and advancing the 2030 Agenda.



Fig. 3 and 4: Working groups with representatives of local and central level institutions

The working groups were also a very important part of the Forum, with all the participants divided into two different groups. The first working group moderated by Dardan Abazi, from the INDEP team, worked closely with local actors such as officials and directors of directorates in Kosovo municipalities, representatives of the AKM, as well as local organizations, initially to present the methodology and findings of social mapping in the municipalities of Hani i Elezit and Viti for the Principle of Inclusiveness (Leave no one behind) as success stories. These municipalities have successfully aligned their municipal protection and social assistance plans based on data collected at the local level. Furthermore, the working group in question addressed and proposed new ways for local and central coordination for the proper implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The second working group moderated by Leartha Hollaj consisted of representatives of central level institutions, the ombudsperson institution, independent agencies, AKM, private sector entities, KAS, and local organizations. This working group aimed at drafting recommendations that will help improve the draft action plan which was created by the Sustainable Development Council with the aim of implementing the 2030 Agenda, followed by reflecting the recommendations from social mapping in this action plan and also the inclusion of social mapping in the SDC strategy. Further, the working group discussed and proposed new ideas for the restructuring of the SDC, such as the establishment of the Council secretariat which would coordinate the work of the Council and ensure that its work continues beyond possible political instabilities, as well as the formation of technical working groups, which will be called based on needs. They will be asked to work on specific topics in accordance with the identified needs of the Council. Also, the addition of new members as stakeholders in the Council as a political entity which is responsible for formulating policies and guiding and appropriate actions to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Opening event and introductory remarks of high level political representatives

The Political Forum started with the opening event, which was held on November 24, and consisted of official representatives of international and local institutions and organizations. The guest speakers at the opening event were: Mr. Getoar Mjeku, deputy Minister of the Ministry of Industry, Entrepreneurship and Trade, Mrs. Fatmire Kollçaku Mullhaxha, Chair of the Sustainable Development Council in the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo, Mrs. Maria Suokko, Acting United Nations Development Coordinator, and UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. David Oberhuber, Director of GIZ Kosovo and North Macedonia, Mr. Joachim Roth, EU Officer in the Network of Associations of Local Authorities in South East Europe (NALAS), Mr. Sazan Ibrahim, Executive Director of the AKM, and Mr. Burim Ejupi, Executive Director of INDEP, who welcomed the initiative and expressed the support of their institutions for advancing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in the country.



Fig. 5: Deputy Minister Mjeku during his speech at the 2030 Agenda Political Forum

These high-level speakers represented various institutions and organizations and showed the willingness and desire to work together towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The first speaker, deputy. Minister of the Ministry of Industry, Entrepreneurship and Trade, Mr. Getoar Mjeku, in his speech mentioned the great will of the Kurti Government to base its economic, social and environmental development strategies on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, consequently showing that MIET will also make efforts to realize its plans and goals based on the sustainable development goals. Further, the deputy Minister stated that in the MIET operational plan there are a number of strategic goals that are mainly related to goal 16, and these efforts have also been targeted through the organizing of this Forum. In the operational plan of the MIET, deputy Minister Mjeku mentioned some of the main objectives, such as: improving the environment for easier operation of private entities (businesses), developing the competitiveness of the private sector, developing the local industry by initiating greater competition so that entrepreneurs can make progress and trade is balanced. Further, deputy Minister Mjeku in his speech mentioned the indispensable need for development of the innovation industry, for promotion and support of foreign investments, without neglecting local investments, improvement of the quality of infrastructure and consumer protection, development of industrial and trade policies aimed at improving the trade balance. Deputy Minister Mjeku concluded his speech with the desire and willingness for Kosovo to report voluntarily on the progress related to the 2030 Agenda, as this report would clearly reveal where Kosovo should be more oriented towards meeting the objectives.

The second speaker of the opening event was Ms. Fatmire Kollçaku - Mulhaxha, Chair of the Sustainable Development Council, who began her speech with a brief history on the council's establishment and consolidation, and the challenges the SDC has faced had as a coordinating body for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda since its establishment in 2018. Further, Ms. Kollçaku - Mulhaxha, in her speech mentioned the work plan of this Council, as well as its focus on 4 main

points: drafting laws, budgeting, oversight and representation, as well as cooperative relations with other institutions and international and local organizations. Ms. Kollçaku - Mulhaxha also added that the Council is now working with the KAS to establish a statistical center within the Council, so that MPs have easier access to data. In addition to the general implementation, Ms. Mulhaxha stressed that the Council will work with certain experts on specific indicators, for the best possible implementation of the 2030 Agenda.



Fig. 6: During the speech of Mr. Ejupi, Mrs. Suokko and Mr. Oberhuber at the opening event of the Forum

Ms. Suokko, Acting Development Coordinator of United Nations and UNDP Resident Representative, was the next speaker at the opening event. In her speech, Ms. Suokko mentioned Kosovo's pledge to implement the 2030 Agenda, taking initial steps in this direction, such as the adoption of the Resolution, its involvement in strategic programs and the establishment of the SDC. Also, Ms. Suokko reaffirmed the support of the United Nations to the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, the Sustainable Development Council, the Office for Strategic Planning, for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

This builds on the great support provided during the project implementation and organization by NALAS, and especially by Mr. Joachim Roth. The latter honored the Forum with his presence at the opening event, as well as by being the moderator of the first roundtable discussion. Mr. Roth, in his speech stressed that social mapping is an extremely necessary methodology to provide us with information and data, so that decisions are made based on the problems of everyday life, as well as policies are developed based on target group data, namely marginalized or vulnerable groups. Mr. Roth, in his speech also mentioned that the pandemic has highlighted the need of vulnerable groups for improvement of social policies, and all this must be addressed based on the 2030 Agenda, which is comprehensive without ignoring anyone.

The representative of GIZ, at the same time the director for Kosovo and North Macedonia, Mr. David Oberhuber, also mentioned the importance of implementing the 2030 Agenda in Kosovo and the support that GIZ offers in this global process. Mr. Oberhuber also mentioned that the work with the INDEP Institute for the implementation of this agenda in recent years, has started

exactly at the local level, and the first but significant steps have been taken in this direction, despite the fact that Kosovo is not obliged to implement this process. Principle of inclusiveness: Leaving no one behind through social mapping is a good example that should be replicated in other municipalities too. Among others, Mr. Oberhuber stressed that the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs are a framework that should be integrated into strategic plans and should prioritize the goals that Kosovo wants to focus on.

The Executive Director of the AKM, Mr. Sazan Ibrahim, and the Executive Director of the INDEP Institute, Mr. Burim Ejupi, were the last speakers and at the same time the organizing collaborators of the Political Forum on the 2030 Agenda. In his opening speech, Mr. Ibrahim stressed that local institutions play a crucial role in the implementation of SDGs, and that the support of central level institutions is required and needed continuously, not only in financial terms but also by drafting the necessary legislative frameworks to operationalize the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in concrete ways. While Mr. Ejupi from the INDEP Institute mentioned that the compilation of the Voluntary National Review Report (VNR) would be an appropriate step in order to track Kosovo's progress in achieving the SDGs. Further, Mr. Ejupi emphasized that in cooperation with the AKM, they are working on raising the awareness and human capacities at the local level for the proper localization of the SDGs. 'INDEP Institute has been working continuously since 2018 for this Agenda, and it will continue to work by providing inputs and assistance to local and central level institutions, until there is concrete progress of this Agenda' - concluded his speech Mr. Ejupi.

Roundtable entitled 'Social Mapping for Inclusive Access - a guiding framework for data-driven policy-making at the local level'



Fig. 7. During the presentation of the findings from the social mapping for the municipalities of Vitina and Hani i Elezit

A contributing part of the Political Forum on the 2030 Agenda were also the roundtables, at which relevant stakeholders discussed on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. From these roundtables, recommendations for each topic discussed were collected and issued. The roundtable discussion entitled '*Social Mapping for Inclusive Access - a guiding framework for data-driven policy-making at the local level*' was moderated by Mr. Joachim Roth, EU official at NALAS, and was composed of Mr. Naim Qelaj, Ombudsperson at the Ombudsperson Institution, Mr. Mentor Morina, official in the department for social work at the MFLT, Mr. Afrim Maliqi, executive director of the HANDIKOS organization, as well as Ms. Nergis Gjinolli, project coordinator at the AKM. The latter, first presented the findings from the social mapping in the municipalities of Hani i Elezit and Viti, to then start the discussion about the findings of these two pilot projects in the

two above-mentioned municipalities, as well as the replication of these examples and mechanisms of social mapping in other areas and for all vulnerable groups. With the proper

implementation of the recommendations of the social mapping report, this could be replicated in other municipalities of Kosovo.

During the roundtable it was discussed that in the final study on social mapping, data aimed at assessing the shortcomings in the provision of public social services were collected. The first shortcoming mentioned was the lack of information of citizens about their rights, to then proceed with the problem of providing non-quality services precisely because of the lack of data. Findings from this study will be used to improve these services, always based on the principle of inclusiveness 'Leave no one behind', as part of the 2030 Agenda, emphasizing the changes that need to be made in the strategic plans of municipalities and designing better social policies for inclusiveness in social schemes and health services. Moreover, during the discussion the importance of the institution of the Ombudsperson was mentioned in this regard, emphasizing that the implementation of social mapping, thus contributing to the implementation of 2030 Agenda, would also help the work of this institution. But to implement this, coordination with other institutions is also needed. The representative of the MFLT, Mr. Morina, mentioned that the main objective of the central level is to improve integrated services based on the needs of all citizens, as well as to take a number of concrete steps by the Ministry, discussing in detail the creation of a platform for the fair distribution of funds at the municipal level. During the discussion was mentioned the contribution of the HANDIKOS organization in the social mapping for the two municipalities of Hani i Elezit and Viti, as well as the continuous discrimination and violation of the rights of persons with special needs, the amendment of legislation and the implementation of WHO recommendations as concrete steps to help these vulnerable groups, while contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Roundtable entitled 'A general perspective on the challenges of data collection at the national level in Kosovo: How does the lack of quality data affect the proper implementation of the 2030 Agenda'

The second roundtable addressed the challenges of data collection, as well as the lack of quality data on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Kosovo. The roundtable was moderated by Valon Feka, an independent expert, and the other interlocutors were Ms. Fatmire Kollçaku - Mulhaxha, chair of the SDC, Mr. Ilir Berisha, executive director of the Kosovo Agency of Statistics, Mr. Adnan Ahmeti, senior officer for strategic planning in the SPO, Ms. Shqipe Krasniqi, coordinator for the 2030 Agenda in the Office of the Secretary General in the Assembly of Kosovo, and Mr. Omar Siddique, Head of Office and Chief Technical Advisor at UN Habitat.

The in-depth discussion and the diverse approaches of different actors, provided for a horizontal discussion of the topic, including public institutions, independent agencies and international organizations. All of these actors are relevant to identify the challenges needed to address this problem. The roundtable mentioned the importance of data collected at the local level and why the 2030 Agenda should be implemented at



Fig. 8: Mrs. Kollçaku at the roundtable on the challenges of data collection

the local level. This was discussed because municipalities are closer to the citizen, and the data collected at the municipal level directly reveal the various challenges of citizens. Furthermore, it was discussed that Kosovo needs a standardized method of gathering information to build a national framework for SDGs reporting. For this reason, cooperation and coordination between different institutions should be increased, because a single institution may not have all the necessary data, especially for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

During this discussion were mentioned the challenges faced by various institutions such as the KAS and SDC, such as lack of human resources, lack of data systematization, as well as lack of institutional interaction. The crucial importance of data availability for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was mentioned again, and it was emphasized that the establishment of a platform by KAS is planned, which will facilitate access to data. The discussion concluded with a statement by Mr. Siddique who said that by cooperating, knowledge is increased and different ways to work together for the implementation of SDGs are enabled, especially at the municipal level.

Roundtable entitled *'Partnerships and cross-sectoral cooperation for sustainable development: The role of the private sector in terms of 'green growth'*



Fig. 9: Final roundtable on the topic of 'Green Growth'

The third and final roundtable of the Political Forum on the 2030 Agenda and SDGs sought to list the challenges and benefits of cross-sectoral cooperation. The importance of the private and public sectors for sustainable development and what is referred to as 'green' growth or the transition from a linear to a circular economy, was particularly emphasized in this discussion. At the third roundtable discussion were invited: Ms. Antigona

Limani, chair of the board of the CSR network, Enisa Serhati, portfolio

manager at UNDP, Berat Rakovica, executive director of the 'Marakli t'Biciklave' organization, and Fatos Hasani, from Pro Credit Bank.

This discussion also stressed once again the importance of inter-institutional and cross-sectoral cooperation. The great need for the involvement of the private sector in policy-making processes has become undeniably necessary for the achievement of certain development goals, as well as for concrete progress in advancing the 2030 Agenda. During the discussion it was stressed that the private sector contributes to filling the state budget and guarantees income for thousands of people, thus being the main accelerator for GDP growth in the country. But it was also mentioned that with this great economic activity leads to environmental impacts of such economic activity. The private sector is considered as both the source of solution and problem, and is an extremely important actor in advancing the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, at the roundtable discussion at the Political

Forum for the 2030 Agenda was also stressed that the observance of standards is the primary step that private sector entities can take to implement the 2030 Agenda, while this sector can become a source of funding for solutions that help implement the 2030 Agenda.

In addition to the ways the private sector can help implement the 2030 Agenda, the discussion also involved the topics of encouraging and pushing private entities by policymakers to foster transformation and focus on sustainable directions. It was stressed that this cannot be done without encouraging bottom-up demands and without monitoring and environmental impact assessment by institutions. The role of subsidies and funds to encourage economic entities that have low environmental impact and positive impact on society, was also mentioned. Another important point mentioned in this discussion was the essential role of organizations in supporting the pillars for transforming the way of doing business from the conventional one to the sustainable one, thus helping to achieve the SDGs.

Commitment of institutions for continuous cooperation

The Political Forum for 2030 Agenda, being a special type of forum, gathered together in one space various actors and stakeholders, all important to contribute to the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The official institutions of the Republic of Kosovo, from the Government, specific ministries, independent agencies, local institutions, to international organizations, local civil society organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders such as young people, involved and interested in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in Kosovo, were invited to contribute. The Forum established the first foundations for inter-institutional and cross-sectoral coordination and partnership through the signing of a Joint Statement on Cooperation and the drafting of numerous recommendations summarized in three different reports which will be submitted to the Sustainable Development Council. Furthermore, the signing of this Statement and the incorporation of the recommendations compiled during this Forum will help the coordinating body for 2030 Agenda to strengthen its action plan in relation to the implementation of the Agenda and to include specific institutions that are important for a comprehensive action for SDGs.

The *Joint Statements* were signed by the INDEP Institute, AKM, Sustainable Development Council, Kosovo Agency of Statistics, Ombudsperson Institution, and the Office for Strategic Planning, which declare social mapping as an essential tool for measuring progress, increasing cooperation between stakeholders, promoting the principle of inclusiveness, and tracking success in realizing the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, the statement covered the joint work of institutions to promote social networking and recognize each other's role in fulfilling the 2030 Agenda on the one hand, and to engage in mutual assistance in this process and joint coordination of various institutions and social groups on the other hand. So, in conclusion, it is suggested to jointly agree on the mechanism for improvement and exchange of data collected at the local level between Kosovo municipalities and central level institutions, in order to improve policy-making towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

Recommendations issued from the working groups

An essential part of the forum was the work of the working groups composed of the most important local and central stakeholders for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The recommendations from the two working groups are expected to serve as a guide in developing further measures and activities at central and local level in relation to policy-making, and will provide for actions and steps for establishing coordination between local and national level institutions.

Based on the discussions on the structure of the SDC, it was considered that the restructuring of the SDC based on a proposed 3-tier model would contribute to enhanced cross-sectoral and inter-institutional coordination for the implementation of SDGs. This structure would be divided into three entities: the secretariat, the council and the working groups. The presence of representatives of relevant sectors and entities in the Council was also considered necessary, as it would provide an opportunity in itself to exchange, coordinate and improve actions towards meeting the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

Another recommendation from the working groups was the need for regular coordination with the donor community that would help better shape policies and actions for the 2030 Agenda, which would potentially be reflected in the relevant donor funding schemes, and would eventually feed into local and central projects, or civil society-led projects.

The lack of communication and close coordination between the local and central level of government is significant. It was therefore recommended to possibly identify the appointments of civil servants in each municipality as local coordinators for the SDGs. Their work could be led and assisted by the Association of Kosovo Municipalities, whose representatives would channel requests to the SDC through their presence.

Another recommendation is the urgent need to invest in a well-targeted and well-designed awareness building and education campaign. The persistent lack of knowledge on sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda hinders proper action and good inter-institutional coordination in this regard. All of this will not be possible without the proper budgeting of the 2030 Agenda in order to move forward with the strategy and action plan.

The final recommendation is to use social mapping as an essential tool for measuring progress, increasing cooperation between stakeholders, promoting the principle of inclusiveness, and tracking success in achieving the 2030 Agenda. Obviously, all of this is not possible without a well-designed strategy and action plan. Delegating certain competencies to the local level is essential for a proper implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the involvement of all relevant institutions, non-governmental organizations and private sector, and is ultimately necessary to make progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

ANNEX

- RECOMMENDATIONS TABLE (Relevant for each institution)
- AGENDA
- JOINT STATEMENTS

		Recommendation	Responsible institution	Actions needed
Working Group 1: How Can Inter-Sectorial And Inter-Institutional Coordination Between The Local And The Central Level And The Private Sector Help To Advance The 2030 Agenda And Meet The Sustainable Development Goals	1	The need to have more than just a parliamentary session per year on SDGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council for Sustainable Development • Kosovo Assembly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An official request of the council to the Presidency of the Assembly ○ An invitation to political parties and parliamentary groups
	2	The need to bring the Council's work closer to schools and educational institutions to ensure sustainable learning and embracing of the concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council for Sustainable Development • Ministry of Education • Municipal Directorates on Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Joint meetings between the Council and the Ministry of Education ○ Official visit of the Council through the Municipal Directorates of Education
	3	Organizing once a year a parliamentary session on SDGs, their purpose and fulfillment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kosovo Assembly • Council for Sustainable Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meetings with parliamentary groups ○ Coordination between the leadership and political parties ○ Submission of reports to the Council and increase of information
	4	Involvement of SDGs in the law drafting process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliamentary's Committee on Legislation • Working group on the new Rules of Procedure • Council for Sustainable Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advocating for an article in the new Rules of Procedure of the Assembly to make this mandatory ○ Add an SDG compatibility table to the legislative process' norms.
	5	Parliamentary committees periodically oversee the Government and other independent bodies to ensure compliance with the SDGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliamentary's Functional Committees • Liaison's Office for Independent Agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adding public hearings in the action plans of the functional committees of the assembly ○ Amendment of the Manual for reporting of independent agencies - through the Presidency of the Assembly

	6	Members of the Assembly to integrate the SDGs in fulfilling the representative role.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the parliament • Political parties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adding of SDGs in the framework of Rules of Procedure and scope of work of the parliament. ○ Working with political parties to integrate SDGs
	7	Capacity building and expertise for sustainable development within the central and local institutions of Kosovo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kosovo Government • Office for Strategic Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increasing the budget of the Assembly for trainings and appoint SDGs focal points at the municipalities. ○ Inclusion of SDGs in the capacity building plans of civil servants
	8	Promoting SDGs and raising awareness on sustainable development within the country.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kosovo Government • Municipalities • Donor community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Awareness activities in the Working Plans of the parliamentary committees. ○ A harmonized declaration of political parties on dedicating budget for awareness raising campaigns.
Working Group 2: How can inter-sectorial and inter-institutional coordination between the local and	9	Local institutions should consider the possibility of organizing public transport for students who attend the learning process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Directorates on Public Services • Municipal Directorates on Education • Ministry of Local Governance Administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adding these investments in the budget circular for 2022. ○ Amendment of the Law on Primary and Secondary Education – adding provision on the guaranteed right of physical access to education.
	10	Institutions should provide places for recreation in public spaces for people with disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Directorates on Public Services • Municipal Offices on Human Rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amendment of municipal development plans ○ Review of zoning maps and list of capital investments ○ Redesign of criteria for capital investments in 2022 ○ Amendments to the Law No. 06/L-092 On Allocation for Use and Exchange of Municipal Immovable

				Property – articles that prevent municipalities for granting land to NGOs in exchange of social services.
11	Local institutions need to further strengthen their role for a wider and equal society by playing a constructive role in promoting the rights of people with disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Offices on Human Rights. • Municipal Directorates on Public Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase the budget for human rights offices ○ Expansion and linking of office activities with local youth action councils 	
12	Local institutions should create a plan as comprehensive as possible and allocate financial resources that strengthen the lives and well-being of the citizens of the municipalities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Directorate on Capital Investments (or Public Procurement depending on the municipality) • Municipal Committee for Finance and Policy • Municipal non-formal committees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Creating a social key to capital investment evaluation in planning, implementation and impact assessment. ○ Memorandums of Understanding with NGOs working to promote human rights and well-being of all citizens. 	
13	Local institutions should, within the framework of social services, create spaces and day care centers for vulnerable categories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Directorates on Social Welfare • Local non-formal committees • Village's Councils and community leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amendments to the Law No. 06/L-092 On Allocation for Use and Exchange of Municipal Immovable Property – the possibility of allocating public land through public-private partnerships and partnerships with civil society organizations. 	
14	Local institutions can increase cooperation with businesses to create the possibility of creating and including these categories in the employment of people with disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Agency of Employment • Municipal Offices of Employment • Municipal Directorates on Economic Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amendment of the Labor Law and the inclusion of social responsibility and linking municipal incentives with the inclusion of vulnerable groups in the labor market. ○ Changing municipal development plans and including the employment of vulnerable groups as key Objective 	

	15	Local institutions should consider creating the conditions or favoring businesses to hire people with disabilities who may be willing to work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Mayors and strategic planning offices in municipalities • Municipal Offices of Business Registration Agency • Economic Chambers and • Kosovo Government and Ministry of Local Governance Administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amendment of the Labor Law and the inclusion of social responsibility and linking municipal incentives with the inclusion of vulnerable groups in the labor market. ○ Changing municipal development plans and including the employment of vulnerable groups as key Objective.
	16	Institutions should provide the best possible care and treatment services for people affected most from the COVID-19 pandemic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Health • Ministry of Social Welfare • Municipal Directorates on Social Welfare • Municipal Offices of Employment • Municipal Directorate on Economic Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commencement of procedures for the adoption of the Law on Health - concept paper. ○ Clarification of competencies between the central and local level in primary and secondary health. ○ Establishment of a municipal public health platform. ○ Establishment of a public health barometer as a tool for scanning and measuring the situation by municipalities.



Agenda

Date: 24 - 25 November

Venue: Hotel Emerald, Pristina

Day 1	
09:00-09:15	Registration of participants
09:15-10:00	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks</p> <p>Moderator: Dardan Abazi, INDEP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getoar Mjeku, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Industry, Entrepreneurship and Trade • Fatmire Kollçaku, Chair of the Sustainable Development Council of the Assembly of Kosovo • Maria Suokko, UNDP Resident Representative/Acting UN Development Coordinator, Kosovo • David Oberhuber, Country Director of GIZ Kosovo and North Macedonia • Joachim Roth, EU Officer, Network of Associations of Local Authorities in South-East Europe – NALAS • Sazan Ibrahim, Executive Director of the Association of Kosovo Municipalities – AKM • Burim Ejupi, Executive Director, Institute for Development Policy - INDEP
10:00 – 10:15	Coffee break and networking
10:15 – 11:30	<p>Panel Discussion: “Social mapping for LNOB Principle Approach - a guiding framework for data-driven policy-making at the municipal level“</p> <p>Moderator: Joachim Roth, NALAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Naim Qelaj, Ombuds Institution of Kosovo ○ Mentor Morina, Department for Social Policy and Family, MFLT ○ Nergis Gjinolli, Association of Kosovo Municipalities ○ Afrim Maliqi, HANDIKOS

11:30 - 12:30	<p>Panel Discussion: “An overview perspective on data collection challenges at the national level in Kosovo: How does the lack of good quality data affects the overall implementation of Agenda 2030”</p> <p>Moderator: Valon Feka, Independent Expert (TBC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fatmire Kollçaku, Sustainable Development Council of the Assembly of Kosovo ○ Ilir Berisha, Statistical Office in Kosovo ○ Adnan Ahmeti, Office of Strategic Planning - Office of the Prime Minister in Kosovo ○ Shqipe Krasniqi, Office of the Secretary General of the Assembly of Republic of Kosovo ○ Omar Siddique – UN Habitat
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 - 15:00 <i>Integrated coffee break</i>	<p><u>Parallel working groups on thematic discussions:</u></p> <p>The session is organized in two working groups. An expert on for the specific thematic groups hosts each table. Each group is composed by municipality, relevant ministry, human rights institution, CSO and other development agencies. Participants of each working group assign representatives. These representatives are appointed in advance and will present the recommendations from each working group.</p> <p>Thematic discussion on the first working group: What are the policy recommendations and measures from municipal strategies that require systematic responses from the national level to complement and strengthen the efforts of municipalities? Expert: Dardan Abazi, INDEP</p> <p>Thematic discussion on the second working group: How can inter-sectorial and inter-institutional coordination between the local and central level and the private sector help to advance the 2030 Agenda and meet the Sustainable Development Goals? Expert: Learta Hollaj, Independent Expert</p> <p>• Discussion Round 1: Develop relevant national strategies or laws that comply with relevant recommendations Round 2: Designate the relevant institutions responsible for implementation Round 3: Compile applicable recommendations that will be considered by relevant institutions in specific policy documents</p>
15:00 – 15:30	<p>Reporting of representatives of working groups</p> <p>General summary</p>

	Day 2
09:00 – 09:15	Registration of participants
09:15 – 10:30	Plenary Session: Voluntary National Reviews Process: Aligning the countries strategic plans with the global commitments Open discussion with Ana Jovanoska, Coordinator for the National Voluntary Report, Agenda 2030 and CSOs in North Macedonia
10:30 – 11:30	Panel Discussion: Cross Sector Partnerships and Collaborations for Sustainable Development: Green Growth Role of the Private Sector Moderator: Donikë Beqiri, INDEP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Antigona Limani, CSR Network ○ Enisa Serhati, UNDP ○ Berat Rakovica, NGO Marakli t'Biciklave ○ Fatos Hasani, Pro Credit Bank
10:30 – 12:15	Signing Ceremony of Joint Declaration

Following the High Political Forum on "Agenda 2030 in the framework of strategic planning", the Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AKM), the Institute for Development Policy (INDEP), and the Sustainable Development Council (SDC), in order to coordinate and advance of social mapping and the 2030 Agenda decided to sign a:

Joint Declaration

(To advance social mapping and increase cooperation)

- AKM, INDEP and SDC proclaim social mapping as an essential tool for measuring progress, increasing cooperation between the stakeholders, promoting the principle of inclusiveness and tracking success in achieving the 2030 Agenda. will work together to promote social networking and recognize each other's role in meeting the 2030 Agenda on the one hand, and engage in mutual assistance in this process on the other. AKM, INDEP and SDC will work together to promote social networking and recognize each other's role in meeting the 2030 Agenda on the one hand, and engage in mutual assistance in this process on the other.
- AKM, INDEP and SDC advocate for prioritization of the 2030 agenda and addressing of the challenges identified by social mapping. This prioritization should be based on the needs of the people and the necessity for the Agenda to be put in the service of increasing the well-being of citizens, the promotion of human rights and social progress.
- Implementation of the 2030 agenda will require joint coordination of different institutions and social groups. The parties to this Declaration call on the institutions to support the work of the SDC and to provide this institution with information, support and cooperation in advancing social mapping and the 2030 Agenda.
- The Parties call on the political and non-political spectrum to cooperate with the Sustainable Development Council and to contribute to capacity building, enhancing social dialogue and bridging the gap in the planning and implementation of projects and policies in order to implement the 2030 Agenda in central and local level.
- AKM, INDEP and SDC commit to allocate human capacity for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and social mapping and call on other institutions and organizations to join efforts to work together to measure progress, increase investment and build partnerships for sustainable development.

Prishtinë, 25th of November, 2021

Burim Ejupi – Executive
Director, INDEP

Sazan Ibrahimimi – Executive
Director, AKM

Fatmire Kollçaku - Mulhaxha -
Sustainable Development
Council

After the High Political Forum on "Agenda 2030 in the framework of strategic planning", the Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AKM), the Institute for Development Policy (INDEP), and the Office for Strategic Planning (OSP), to coordinate and advance social mapping and Agenda 2030 decided to sign a:

Joint Declaration

(for advancing social mapping and increasing cooperation)

- AKM, INDEP, and SPO declare social mapping as an essential tool for measuring progress, increasing cooperation between the parties, promoting the principle of inclusiveness, and tracking success in achieving the 2030 Agenda. INDEP, AKM, and OSP will work together to promote social networking and recognize each other's role in fulfilling the 2030 Agenda on the one hand and engage in mutual assistance in this process on the other.
- The Office for Strategic Planning together with the signatories of this Declaration undertake to work together so that the strategic documents will contribute to the implementation of Agenda 2030 and social mapping to plan, coordinate and implement measures to increase progress.
- Through this Declaration, the parties commit to work together so that strategic documents incorporate the demands and needs of the local level and vulnerable social groups. The undersigned parties pledge to develop ongoing communication with a view of advancing the 2030 Agenda.
- In the strategic planning documents, the parties will commit to implementing the commitment of the parties to increase communication to exchange best practices and build long-term cooperation to advance the 2030 Agenda. The parties pledge to deepen this cooperation and work together to expand this partnership and build new partnerships.

Pristina, 25 November, 2021

Burim Ejupi – Executive
Director, INDEP

Sazan Ibrahimimi – Executive
Director, AKM

Vedat Sagonjeva – Office for
Strategic Planning – OSP

Following the High Political Forum on "Agenda 2030 in the framework of strategic planning", the Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AKM), the Institute for Development Policy (INDEP), and the Office for Strategic Planning (OSP), in order to coordinate and advance of social mapping and the 2030 agenda decided to sign a:

Joint Declaration

(To advance social mapping and increase cooperation)

- AKM, INDEP and Ombuds Institution proclaim social mapping as an essential tool for measuring progress, increasing cooperation between the stakeholders, promoting the principle of inclusiveness and tracking success in achieving the 2030 Agenda. will work together to promote social networking and recognize each other's role in meeting the 2030 Agenda on the one hand, and engage in mutual assistance in this process on the other. AKM, INDEP and SDC will work together to promote social networking and recognize each other's role in meeting the 2030 Agenda on the one hand, and engage in mutual assistance in this process on the other
- INDEP, AKM and Ombuds Institution commit to working for the advancement of human rights including equality before the law, and the right to live in a livable environment and to work for the advancement of the 2030 Agenda and to implement the findings of social mapping.
- The Parties declare the protection of vulnerable groups and marginalized groups at the heart of the 2030 Agenda implementation efforts and stress that a comprehensive approach and the inclusion of no one will be a guide to working together.
- INDEP, AKM and Ombudsperson Institution invite central and local institutions to step up inter-social dialogue to implement the commitments of Agenda 2030. The signatories also pledge to expand cooperation for joint advocacy and increase communication.
- The Parties emphasize the importance of increasing the partnership for the 2030 Agenda and pledge to use their platforms to expand cooperation at the local and central level in order to increase communication and information exchange.

Prishtinë, 25th of November, 2021

Burim Ejupi – Executive
Director, INDEP

Sazan Ibrahimimi – Executive
Director, AKM

Naim Qelaj - Ombudsperson
Institution

After the High Political Forum on the topic "Agenda 2030 in the Framework of Strategic Planning in Kosovo", the Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AKM), the Institute for Development Policy (INDEP), and the Kosovo Agency of Statistics (KAS), in order to coordinate and advance social mapping and the 2030 Agenda agree to sign this:

Joint Declaration

(to advance social mapping and increase cooperation)

- INDEP, AKM and KAS declare social mapping as an essential tool for measuring progress, increasing cooperation between the parties, promoting the principle of inclusiveness and tracking the progress of achieving the 2030 Agenda. INDEP, AKM and KAS will work together to promote social networking and recognize each other's role in implementing Agenda 2030, and will assist each other during this process.
- INDEP, AKM and KAS call on institutions, businesses and civil society sector to jointly work in identifying barriers, finding opportunities to build partnerships and in advancing these partnerships in the future. By recognizing the importance of cooperation and partnership between local and central level institutions and civil society, the signatory parties call for regular dialogue and communication.
- Special attention should be paid to vulnerable groups by focusing on the realization of their economic, social and cultural rights so that no one is overlooked and that the progress is inclusive. This joint effort should be data-driven and oriented at both the central and private levels.
- Commitment of the parties is imperative to increase communication aiming to exchange best practices and easier overcoming of economic, social and cultural challenges for the realization of human rights in the context of social mapping.
- The signatory parties call on the institutions to step up their efforts for greater financial support so that the data on SDG targets and indicators is complete. Datasets of SDG indicators should be accessible to the public and its tracking must contribute in the policy planning level.
- The signatory parties declare that they will work closely to advance the values that the social mapping provides for SDGs and will engage their human capacities to advance further this agenda. INDEP, AKM and KAS will intensify the dialogue and cooperation in order to build a common synergy for to collaborate in the future initiatives and projects.

Prishtina, 25 November, 2021

Burim Ejupi – Executive
Director, INDEP

Sazan Ibrahimimi – Executive
Director, AKM

Ilir Berisha – Director General,
KAS

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