

**Interstate Statistical Committee
of the Commonwealth of Independent States
(CIS - Stat)**

**PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING THE SDGS IN THE CIS REGION BASED ON
STATISTICAL DATA FROM THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SERVICES OF THE
CIS MEMBER STATES
(AS PART OF UNFPA REGIONAL PROGRAMME “CISPop: BETTER DATA FOR
BETTER POLICIES”)**

MOSCOW 2021

**Progress of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Achieving the Sustainable
Development Goals**

Analytical Report

**Based on Statistical Data of the National Statistical Services of the Commonwealth of
Independent States**

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BACKGROUND

This report is prepared in accordance with the 2021 Annual Work Plan of the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (hereinafter - CIS Statistical Committee), within the framework of the UNFPA Regional Program "Quality Data - Effective Policy" (contract No. 7 -UNFPA-2021 as of September 10, 2021).

Global development goals were composed by the international community in 2000, and were called the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The 15-year period was defined as the period of implementation of programs and activities that ensure the achievement of the MDGs.

Based on the progress made in the achievement of the MDGs and taking into account the current dynamics of world development, on September 25, 2015, the countries of the world at the Meeting of the UN General Assembly approved the "Agenda for Sustainable Development for the period up to 2030"¹, aimed at transforming our world (Resolution 70/1). The updated global development goals were called the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). 15 years were allocated for achievement of the SDGs similar to the MDGs implementation period.

A total of 17 SDGs and 169 targets that need to be addressed for their implementation were approved.²

Compared to the MDGs, the SDGs package has been expanded. New goals were included addressing water and energy issues, as well as the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, access to justice for all and the establishment of effective, accountable and participatory institutions at all levels.

Overall, the SDGs cover three areas of sustainable development – economic growth, social development, environmental protection and their implementation should ensure the eradication of poverty and inequality, creation of decent jobs, development of cities and human settlements, further industrialization, formation of sustainable consumption and production,

¹ Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Meeting of the UN General Assembly, September 25, 2015. Resolution 70/1. URL: http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/ares70d1_ru.pdf

² Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Meeting of the UN General Assembly, September 25, 2015. Resolution 70/1. URL: http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/ares70d1_ru.pdf

protection of oceans, ecosystems, energy supply and energy development, addressing issues related to climate change.

The SDGs became more ambitious, for example, if earlier the objective was to eliminate the extreme poverty and hunger, now the goal is the universal elimination of all manifestations of poverty and hunger in the world.

It's crucial, that the SDGs are universal and applicable to all countries, whereas the MDGs were only applicable for developing countries.

The specificity of the SDGs is that, inter alia, they focus on the means of implementation, namely financial mobilization, capacity-building and technology. It was also planned to develop monitoring and data collection on the progress of their implementation.

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was established on December 8, 1991. It currently includes the following states: Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Armenia, Republic of Belarus, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, The Russian Federation, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Republic of Uzbekistan and Ukraine.

Today, the CIS is a regional interstate organization recognized by the international community. Its distinctive features are the organization of countries' interaction in almost all spheres.³

BOX 1
<i>In accordance with the CIS Charter, the objectives of the CIS are as follows:⁴</i>
➤ <i>cooperation in political, economic, environmental, humanitarian, cultural and other fields;</i>
➤ <i>comprehensive and balanced economic and social development of the Member States within the framework of a common economic space, interstate cooperation and integration;</i>
➤ <i>ensuring human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the universally recognized principles and norms of international law and OSCE documents;</i>
➤ <i>cooperation among Member States in ensuring international peace and security, the implementation of effective measures to reduce armaments and military expenditures, the elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, and the achievement of general and complete disarmament;</i>
➤ <i>assistance to citizens of the Member States in free communication, contacts and movement in the</i>

³ An important milestone for the CIS recognition was granting CIS the observer status by the UN General Assembly in March 1994. Similar status granted to the CIS at UNCTAD (19 April 1994).

⁴ Charter of the Commonwealth of Independent States <https://base.garant.ru/1118251/>

<i>CIS;</i>
➤ <i>mutual legal assistance and cooperation in other areas of legal relations;</i>
➤ <i>peaceful settlement of disputes and conflicts between the States of the CIS.</i>

The CIS countries are actively implementing the SDGs. This is confirmed by the voluntary national reviews of progress towards the SDGs presented by the CIS countries at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (PFSD) (see Table 1).

Table 1 Voluntary National Reviews of Progress towards the SDGs

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Republic of Azerbaijan	+		+		+
Republic of Armenia		+		+	
Republic of Belarus	+				
Republic of Kazakhstan			+		
Republic of Kyrgyzstan				+	
Republic of Moldova				+	
The Russian Federation				+	
Republic of Tajikistan	+				
Turkmenistan			+		
Republic of Uzbekistan				+	
Ukraine				+	

Source: UN website www.un.org

The objective of this report is to analyze current status and progress in achieving the SDG indicators in the CIS region, to identify key successes and challenges in achieving the SDGs.

To achieve this objective, institutional mechanisms for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the CIS countries were reviewed; the approaches used by the CIS countries to the SDGs implementation were identified and summarized, the reflection of the SDGs in national strategic and program documents was analyzed, the dynamics of progress in achieving the SDGs and the vectors of further actions to achieve them were outlined.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The report analyzes the situation and developments using selected indicators for each of the 17 SDGs for all 11 CIS countries.

It should be noted that the UN provides data on the progress of achieving the SDGs for the world as a whole, and for different groups of countries. These groups of countries are compiled on the basis of geographical regions in accordance with the M49 standard ("Standard country or area codes for use in statistics")⁵. At the same time, the CIS member countries are distributed among different regions (see table. 2).

Table 2 Distribution of CIS Countries by Region⁶

Eastern Europe	Central Asia	Western Asia
Republic of Belarus	Republic of Kazakhstan	Republic of Azerbaijan
Republic of Moldova	Republic of Kyrgyzstan	Republic of Armenia
The Russian Federation	Republic of Tajikistan	
Ukraine	Turkmenistan	
	Republic of Uzbekistan	

Source UN website www.un.org

For the purposes of this report, the CIS countries are considered as a single region. The analysis in this report of the CIS countries as a single region does not imply any denial of the geographical definition of the regions adopted by the UN or the non-acceptance of the M49 standard.

The indicators were selected on the basis of their relevance to the CIS countries and the availability of data. The findings relate to the selected indicators and the relevant SDG targets. Conclusions about individual goals do not necessarily apply to all goals, as each goal includes tasks in a wide range of areas, and progress is not homogeneous.

Sources of information are: official data of statistical services of the CIS member states submitted to the CIS Statistical Committee within the framework of the agreement on the interstate exchange of statistical information, as well as data from the official websites of the statistical services of the CIS countries and international organizations of the UN system.

⁵ URL: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49>.

⁶ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/regionalgroups>

Data sources, indicator definitions, differences in measurements and methodology affect the comparability of indicators and, in cases of insufficient cross-country and regional harmonization of data, such differences make it difficult to form a common understanding of the situation. The information provided in the UN database does not always correspond to the data of the national statistical offices of the CIS countries, and it is difficult to use it directly. In this regard, before the analysis of indicators, a preliminary assessment of the comparability of data from different sources was carried out.

The report also draws on data from voluntary national reviews provided by the states on achieving the SDGs submitted to the UN.

The comparison of the situation in the CIS region with the global trend was carried out using the conclusions of the report of the UN Secretary-General on the progress of achieving the SDGs made in summer of 2021 and other UN materials.⁷

To assess progress towards the achievement of the SDGs in the CIS region, the methodology used in the Chart of Progress towards the SDGs 2021⁸ was applied. The progress chart, along with the SDG Report 2021 (hereinafter referred to as “2021 UN report on the SDGs”)⁹, reveals the results of monitoring of the global progress towards the SDGs for 2021. According to this methodology, the assessment of progress towards the goals consists of two elements - an assessment of the level of achievement of the goal and an assessment of progress trends.

The following levels of goal achievement are distinguished:

- Goal achieved or almost achieved
- Close to the achievement of the goal
- Moderate distance to the goal achievement
- Far from the goal achievement
- Very far from the goal achievement

⁷ Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Report of the Secretary-General on Politicalohm forume high level on sustainable development, sozbathroom under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. 2021 Session 23 June 2020 to 22 July 2021. Agenda item 6. <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2021/secretary-general-sdg-report-2021--RU.pdf>

⁸ Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2021, available at: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/progress-chart-2021.pdf>

⁹ The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021, available at: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021>

Trends in goals achievement are divided into categories:

- Significant progress towards the goal achievement
- Visible progress, but acceleration of efforts is needed
- Limited or no progress towards the goal achievement
- Deterioration of the situation.

Publications of experts and researches on SDG issues have also been used.¹⁰

As the analysis of the materials published on the SDGs shows, the analysis is usually carried out either for individual SDG or for SDGs blocks covering different areas of development. For example, individual countries use the following groupings: human capital development (People); access to infrastructure and economic growth (Prosperity); environmental protection and climate change mitigation (Climate Change); anti-corruption, human rights and justice (Peace); cooperation to achieve sustainable development goals (Partnership). Review and analysis of the SDGs by different blocks is certainly of interest, since it shows the overlapping impact of actions taken to achieve various goals. However, in this report, an analysis is made for each of the SDGs. It could be further expanded and an analysis of the blocks of goals added to it, for example, revealing the interconnections between achievement of the social well-being and economic growth.

APPROACHES, INSTITUTIONS AND MECHANISMS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGs AGENDA IN THE CIS REGION

The CIS countries demonstrate common approaches to the implementation of the SDGs.

First, the achievement of each SDG requires different actions, and the effectiveness of the process depends on the degree of interaction between its participants. Integration of efforts allows getting better and faster results and higher progress rate of the implementation of each goal. achievement. Implementation of the SDGs by the CIS countries goes beyond the "one performer" and "one policy" patterns, and the so-called "whole government" approach is widely applied by the CIS countries to SDGs implementation processes. It is based on an integration of macroeconomic, financial, fiscal, and social mechanisms, for example, combination of policy

¹⁰ Sachs J.D., Kroll C., Lafortune G., Fuller G, Woelm F. Sustainable Development Report 2021. Includes the SDG Index and Dashboards. The Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals. Cambridge University Press. P. 518. DOI 10.1017/97810091065

measures in the labor market with policy measures in the field of education, health, technologies etc. allows to gain more in-depth effect on the situation of the population.

Second, fundamentally important "engine" of the SDGs implementation process is the inclusion of specific goals and objectives in national strategies, plans, programs and other documents that define various directions of national economic and social development. policies the compliance of strategic documents on the socio-economic development of CIS countries and the SDGs is reported by all CIS countries, although the degree of compliance is, of course, different.

Third, everyone shares the understanding of the need to monitor the implementation of actions aimed at the achievement of the SDGs. This is not only confirmed by voluntary national reports.

The closeness of the principles for achieving the SDGs in the CIS countries is due to the obvious complex nature of each of the seventeen goals, the implementation of which is impossible without interdepartmental cooperation, as well as the active participation of business, workers and interested non-governmental organizations. An important role in unifying the principles for the implementation of the SDGs is also played by the Voluntary common reporting guidelines for voluntary national reviews at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)¹¹. This document not only defines the requirements for voluntary national reports, but also provides a framework vision for possible approaches to the implementation of the SDGs.

Speaking about the principles that guide the CIS countries in the achievement of the SDGs, it is impossible not to note the principle of "leaving no one behind", which has become one of the fundamental principles of socio-economic development in general and the implementation of the SDGs, in particular. According to this principle, countries take concrete actions to combat inequality and discrimination, as well as efforts to achieve inclusive development. In this regard, the most vulnerable groups of the population are identified, policies and programs are implemented to meet their needs and support their empowerment and

¹¹ https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/27171SG_Guidelines_2021.final.pdf

integration into society, regardless of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, economic or other factors. Based on this principle, the CIS countries make efforts aimed at empowering women and girls, promoting the development of youth and supporting other vulnerable groups of the population.

The CIS countries are actively organizing their work on the implementation of the SDGs. Ministries and departments, and other public administration bodies are involved in the process of implementing the SDGs in their areas of activities and within the framework of the existing distribution of power in a country. Since the implementation process is interdepartmental in nature, coordination councils, interdepartmental commissions are created in the CIS countries, and posts of SDG coordinators are established. Representatives of business, non-governmental organizations, experts are involved in the work of such bodies. In most CIS countries, ministries of economic development play a leading role in the implementation of the SDGs.

The most important mechanism for the implementation of the SDGs in the CIS countries is the inclusion of the SDG in national documents that define the development strategies of countries. Most of the SDGs and targets defined by the 2030 Agenda are already reflected to some extent in various official program documents of the CIS countries. At the same time, the degree of inclusion of SDGs indicators in national documents varies by country and is determined by the priorities and national circumstances within each country.

Table 3 presents the main institutions and mechanisms for the implementation of the SDGs in the CIS countries.

Table 3 Institutions and Mechanisms for the Implementation of the SDGs in the CIS Countries

Country	Institutions	Ensuring compliance of strategic documents on the socio-economic development of the country and the SDGs
Republic of Azerbaijan ¹²	A national coordinating council for sustainable development has been established, which includes representatives of the Cabinet of Ministers, various ministries and state committees. Consult	Coordination of state programs, action plans and strategic documents related to the goals and objectives of the SDGs has been implemented.

¹² <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/azerbaijan>

	with various stakeholders, including Parliament, line ministries, government agencies, NGOs, the private sector and academic institutions.	
Republic of Armenia ¹³	In 2015, the SDG Council was established; In 2020, the Decision of the Prime Minister approved the new composition and procedures of the Council, as well as the procedure for organizing a competition for the involvement and rotation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to the Council. In addition to the members of the Council, representatives of business associations, scientific and educational institutions are invited to the meetings.	Currently, the Government is developing a "Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Armenia 2050", which includes 16 mega-goals. with their own goals, indicators, objectives and solutions. The strategy is considered as the basis for the implementation of the SDGs, and the mega-goals are mainly in line with them.
Republic of Belarus ¹⁴	In the Republic of Belarus, a national coordination mechanism was formed, the post of National Coordinator for the achievement of the SDGs was established, under his leadership the formation of the National Council for Sustainable Development, which united the heads of 30 relevant government bodies and regions, was formed.	The Republic of Belarus considers the inclusion and integration of the SDGs in national, sectoral and regional strategies, programs and development plans that determine the work of the Government, central and local authorities, improvement of legislation and allocation of budget resources.
Republic of Kazakhstan ¹⁵	A Coordinating Council for the SDGs has been established under the chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Minister. The Ministry of National Economy is the coordinating body of the Council. The secretariat is acted by JSC "Institute of Economic Research", which provides expert and analytical support. Five working groups have been established in five key areas of the 2030 Agenda.	The strategy "Kazakhstan – 2050" is basically correlated with the SDGs. The Republic of Kazakhstan sets the main guidelines of state policy to ensure social justice and environmental sustainability.
Republic of Kyrgyzstan ¹⁶	The first step of the Government was the organization in 2019 of five working groups, which were ordered to prepare a review of the implementation of the SDGs in the Republic. The teams were then integrated into pre-existing structures to avoid duplication and additional bureaucracy, and to effectively optimize available human and financial resources.	The sustainable development goals are included in the state policy and are reflected in the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan for 2018-2040 and the Program of the Government of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan "Unity. Trust. Creation» for the period 2018–2022.
Republic of Moldova ¹⁷	A National Coordinating Council for Sustainable Development, chaired by the Prime Minister, has been established.	Only 11% of the SDGs were aligned with national policy documents, in addition, most of the SDGs (57 percent) are only partially aligned with the policy documents of the Republic of Moldova – only a few components of these goals are included. A

¹³ https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26318Armenia_VNRFINAL.pdf

¹⁴ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16357Belarus.pdf>

¹⁵

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23453KAZAKHSTAN_VNR_Kazakhstan_web_site_2019.pdf

¹⁶ https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26372VNR_2020_Kyrgyzstan_Report_Russian.pdf

¹⁷ https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26346VNR_2020_Moldova_Report_English.pdf

		one-third of the SDGs are not included in any national policy documents. The SDGs and their targets, adapted at the national level, have been included in the draft National Development Strategy "Moldova 2030", which is currently in the process of being approved.
The Russian Federation ¹⁸	Public authorities of the Russian Federation implement policy measures aimed at achieving the SDGs objectives, within the framework of the existing distribution of power, the Interdepartmental Working Group under the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation on issues related to climate change and sustainable development coordinates actions needed to achieve the SDGs. Non-governmental and non-profit organizations; citizens and youth, including the volunteer movement; representatives of academia; business take part in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.	Most of the goals and targets of sustainable development defined by the 2030 Agenda are already reflected to one degree or another in various official policy documents in the Russian Federation. Back in 1996, the Presidential Decree of the Russian Federation adopted the Concept of the Transition of the Russian Federation to Sustainable Development. In 2018, the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation as of May 7, 2018 No. 204 "On National Goals and Strategic Objectives of the Development of the Russian Federation for the Period up to 2024" ordered to develop national projects to be implemented in 2019-2024 and set numerous tasks, including promotion of sustainable development.
Republic of Tajikistan ¹⁹	The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade has the main responsibility for the implementation of the SDGs. Consultations are held at the national level with the participation of experts from state and sectoral institutions, representatives of parliament, civil society and academia, as well as representatives of social partners.	In 2016, the Republic of Tajikistan developed and adopted the National Development Strategy for the period up to 2030, which sets as the highest goal of the country's long-term development - to improve the standard of living and well-being of the population on the basis of sustainable economic development.
Turkmenistan ²⁰	The National Program of Socio-Economic Development of Turkmenistan for 2011-2030 and the Program of the President of Turkmenistan for the Socio-Economic Development of the Country for 2019-2025 are aimed at achieving sustainable development and determine the consistent implementation of the SDGs as one of the main priorities. Turkmenistan plans to further integrate the goals and objectives in the field of sustainable development into national, sectoral and regional programs, strategies and development plans., as well as in the country's financial plans.	A national coordination mechanism in the form of a Working Group composed of deputy heads of ministries, departments, public organizations, educational and scientific institutions was established, which oversees the implementation of the SDGs and their monitoring. The coordinating body is the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan. To monitor progress and provide reporting, the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan (TurkmenStat) was identified as responsible for the methodology of state and departmental statistics.
Republic of Uzbekistan ²¹	In October 2018, 16 national Goals and 125 SD Targets were adopted. These include indicators	At the government level, an interdepartmental Coordination Council

¹⁸ https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26421VNR_2020_Russia_Report_Russian.pdf

¹⁹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16021Tajikistan.pdf>

²⁰ https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2331512.07.19_Updated_VNR_of_Turkmenistan.pdf

²¹ https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26381VNR_2020_Uzbekistan_Report_Russian.pdf

	recognized as relevant for the Republic of Uzbekistan and reflecting the national priorities of the country. The Republic of Uzbekistan adopted an Action Strategy for 2017-2021. This strategy and its five priority areas were recognized as corresponding to the global SDGs. Work is underway to integrate national SDGs into comprehensive, sectoral and regional development strategies and programs, including the Concept of Integrated Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030.	headed by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan was established and a Roadmap for the implementation of national SDGs was adopted. The main tool for monitoring and dissemination of data on SDGs indicators is the national SDGs reporting platform (http://nsdg.stat.uz). This platform is a single center for collecting and summarizing information on the current situation to achieve the SDGs in the country.
Ukraine ²²	The President of Ukraine adopted a Decree that established the SDGs as a benchmark for the development of forecast and program documents. A monitoring system is developed. The review of the degree of incorporation of the SDGs into existing state strategies and programs revealed that 162 normative legal acts and 4.3 thousand measures are related to SDGs. In March 2020, the new Cabinet of Ministers adopted its own political program, in which it reaffirmed its commitment to the SDGs.	The Government has established an Interdepartmental Working Group on the SDGs to coordinate the achievement of the Goals. Responsibility for the SDGs was distributed among the relevant ministries along with their responsibilities.

Source: National reports on progress in the implementation of the SDGs <https://sdgs.un.org>

PROGRESS TOWARDS SDGs ACHIEVEMENT IN THE CIS REGION

GOAL 1. NO POVERTY

World Trend

Describing the world situation and the progress made towards achievement of the SDGs, the UN Secretary-General noted that in 2020 the economic downturn caused by the pandemic has led to an additional 119 to 124 million people facing extreme poverty, and has further exacerbated poverty alleviation challenges such as conflict, climate change and natural disasters. He also said that it is projected that by 2030, about 600 million people will still live in extreme poverty.²³

²² https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26295VNR_2020_Ukraine_Report.pdf

²³ Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Report of the Secretary-General to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. 2021 session 23 June 2020 – 22 July 2021. Agenda item 6. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N21/109/71/PDF/N2110971.pdf?OpenElement>

The 2021 UN report on the SDGs assesses the world progress in achievement of the SDG 1 through its progress towards two targets: (1) to eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere and (2) achieve substantial social protection coverage²⁴. The progress towards the first target is estimated as limited, while the progress towards the second target is estimated as fair but requiring acceleration. Overall, it is noted that the world is already within moderate distance to both targets.

CIS Progress

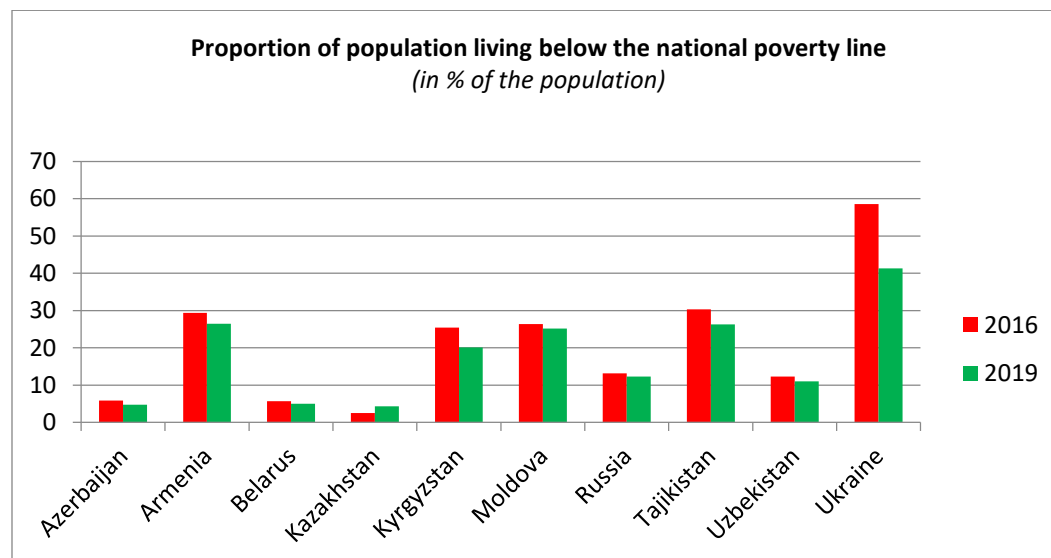
There are different ways to measure the level of poverty. Absolute poverty (extreme poverty) is defined as living below the monetary threshold of \$1.90 per person per day. Poverty can also be defined in terms of the deprivations people face in their daily lives, combining low levels of consumption or income with lack of access to education and basic services.

CIS countries such as the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine have eradicated extreme poverty long before the start of monitoring of the SDGs implementation in 2016. The situation in the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Moldova, the Republic of Tajikistan in 2016 - 2021 was fluctuating, but overall, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty or below the international poverty line followed a declining trajectory.

The trend for the eradication of poverty in all forms (which is what SDG 1 aims at) is characterized by the dynamics of the proportion of the population living below the national poverty line or belonging to the category of low-income population. Each CIS country defines its own national poverty line or criteria for classifying a person as a low-income. This can be a differently calculated subsistence minimum (based on the basket or based on the median income), or the value of the consumer basket, as a rule, including, unlike the subsistence minimum, a more limited set of goods and services. Despite the visible fluctuations of this indicator in a number of CIS countries, as well as differences in the proportions of the population living below the national poverty line, in general, in all countries during the period of 2016-2019 the share of the poor population has decreased (see Figure 1).

²⁴ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/progress-chart-2021.pdf>

Figure 1 Proportion of Population Living Below the National Poverty Line established in the country



Source: data of the CIS Statistical Committee.

At the same time, in all CIS countries in rural areas there were more poor people than in cities. It is interesting that, in contrast to world trends, in five of the seven CIS countries for which the relevant data is provided (in the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation), the proportion of poor men exceeded the share of poor women. This fact allows to conclude, inter alia, that women in these countries face less discrimination in the labor market than in other countries, and that these countries are more advanced in matters of gender equality.

Overall, there is a tendency to reduce child poverty in the CIS countries, although the proportion of children living in poverty remains significant.

Currently, although the global COVID-19 pandemic has hit the economies and populations of the CIS countries, as a result of the measures taken by countries to support the population and business, the poverty rate remains approximately at the level of 2019 or slightly increases. Of course, it will be possible to more accurately assess the situation in 2021 after receiving official data for the CIS countries for 2021.

Finally, in order to understand the situation with regard to poverty eradication, an important indicator is the indicator characterizing the level of deprivation or the associated indicator of access to education, health care and other social services. To assess the availability of education and other social services it is possible to use, inter alia, an indicator characterizing the share of state expenditures on basic services (education, health and social protection) in the total amount of public expenditures. By itself, this indicator does not give an idea of deprivation, accessibility and quality of services, but reflects the process of development of the relevant areas, as a result of which their availability and quality of services will be expanded. In the CIS countries, public spending on education, health and social protection varies, but in general, except for the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine, they showed positive dynamics in the period of 2016-2019.

Challenges to Address

Despite a fairly good picture of progress towards SDG 1, there are still issues that CIS countries could address to significantly accelerate progress in eradicating poverty in all forms. Such issues include providing the population with stable official sources of income, namely the creation of jobs, the formalization of the labor markets and employment and the implementation of the principle of decent work. Another important condition for the reduction and eradication of poverty is the development of social protection of the population, which should be based on the principle "social protection for all". Finally, as the risk of poverty is higher for unskilled workers who do not possess the competencies and skills necessary for decent employment, the development of education, health and social services also ensures the eradication of poverty. Active actions in these areas will accelerate achievement of the SDG 1 and ensure sustainable economic growth of each CIS country and the CIS region as a whole.

GOAL 2. ZERO HUNGER

World Trend

According to an estimate provided in the UN Secretary-General's report²⁵ before the COVID-19 pandemic, since 2014, the number of people experiencing hunger and suffering from

²⁵ Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Report of the Secretary-General to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. 2021 session

food insecurity has been gradually increasing worldwide - in five years (2015-2019) this number has increased by almost 60 million people. The pandemic has increased the vulnerability of global food systems and exacerbated their shortcomings. In 2019, almost 690 million people worldwide were experiencing hunger, equivalent to 8.9% of the world's population. Moderate to severe food insecurity affected 2 billion people, or 25.9% of the world's population, up from 22.4% in 2015. At the same time, according to estimates for 2020, globally, 149.2 million children under the age of five, or 22% of all children, suffer from stunting (stunting for their age), which is 24.4%. lower than in 2015. Exhaustion (too low weight in relation to height) and overweight affect respectively 6.7% (45.4 million) and 5.7% (38.9 million) of children under the age of five.

The 2021 UN report on the SDGs assesses the global progress in ending hunger, ensuring food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture (SDG 2) through the progress towards two targets: (1) ensure access by all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food year-round, and (2) by 2025 achieve 40% reduction from 2012 in the number of stunted children under five years.²⁶ . It is noted that the progress towards both targets is far from desired. On target (1) it is stated that there is a deterioration of the global situation with access by all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food year-round, and on target (2) some progress has been made, but it is necessary to accelerate it.

CIS Progress

The CIS countries pay considerable attention to the elimination of hunger, ensuring food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable development of agriculture both at the national level of each country and through the expansion of interstate cooperation. Even before the adoption of the SDGs, in 2010 the Interstate Council on Agro-Industrial Complex of the CIS was established, which coordinates cooperation on agricultural development and economic issues, including the supply of food and raw materials for the food industry. The Council adopted the Concept of improving the food security of the CIS member countries, aimed at providing the population of the CIS countries with food, mainly through domestic production. Preservation of

23 June 2020 – 22 July 2021. Agenda item 6. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N21/109/71/PDF/N2110971.pdf?OpenElement>

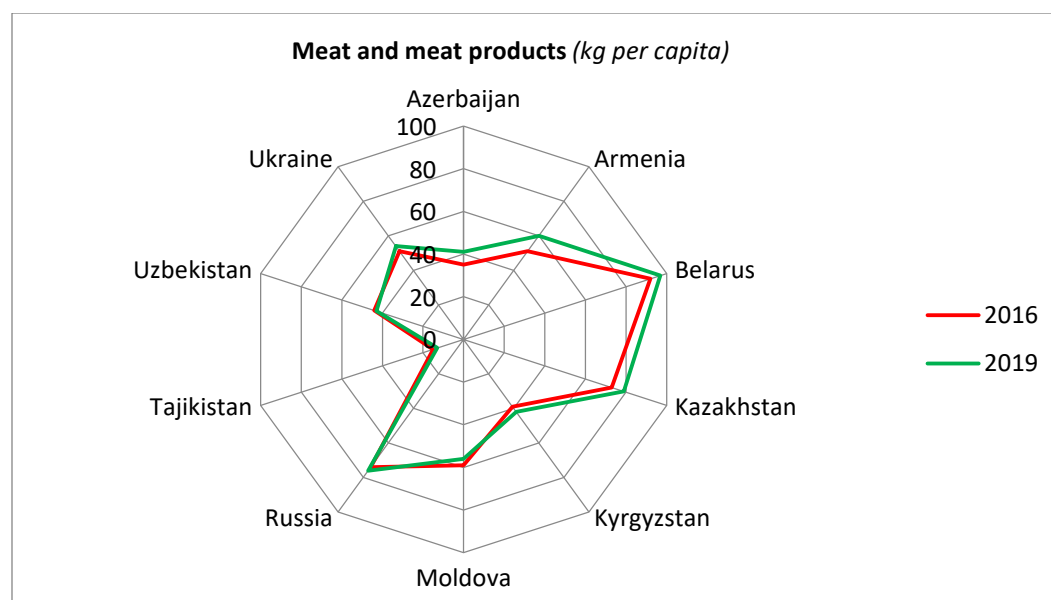
²⁶ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/progress-chart-2021.pdf>

agroecosystems and agrobiodiversity is defined as an important instrument for maintaining food security. In 2016, the CIS countries signed the Convention on the Conservation of Agrobiodiversity, the purpose of which is to improve the quality of life and health of the population as a result of cooperation and rational use of agrobiodiversity.

An analysis of the statistical indicators submitted by the CIS countries to the CIS Statistical Committee showed that countries are experiencing a decrease in the prevalence of stunting and malnutrition of children under five years of age. However, not all CIS countries present such statistics, and it is difficult to draw conclusions about the implementation of SDG 2 according to these indicators.

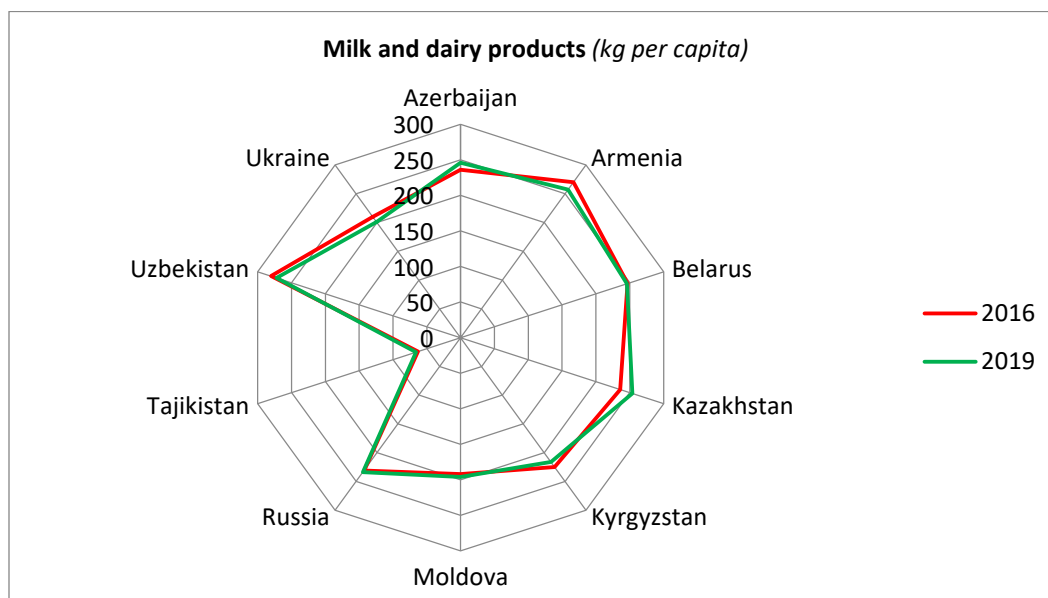
Data on the consumption of basic nutrition products in the CIS countries indicate that the structure of nutrition is largely determined by national and cultural characteristics, as well as by the level and dynamics of economic development of countries.

Figure 2(kg per capita)



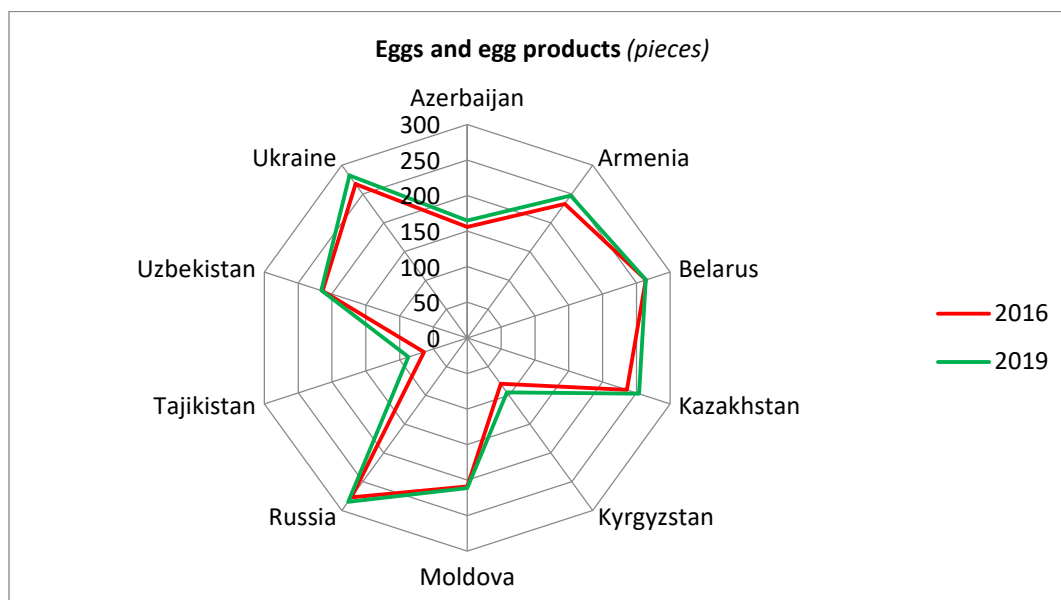
Source: data from the CIS Statistical Committee

Figure 3(kg per capita)



Source: data from the CIS Statistical Committee

Figure 4 Consumption of Eggs and Egg Products, (pieces per capita)



Source: data from the CIS Statistical Committee

Overall, the CIS countries provide the population with adequate quantities of food and take measures to promote the principles of healthy eating.

Food security, nutrition, agriculture and food systems are the priority issues of economic and social policies of the CIS countries and are unlikely to ever be excluded from the priorities list. The CIS countries are committed to achieving food security and adequate nutrition for all.

Challenges to Address

In order to ensure sustainable food security, sustainable nutrition for all, the CIS countries will continue mutual cooperation and coordination. Increasing support for inclusive transformation in rural areas and expanding economic integration in terms of food security between cities and rural areas play an important role in achieving SDG 2 by the CIS countries. Efforts to reduce food loss and waste and to build sustainable food systems, which are vital not only for eradicating hunger and malnutrition, but also for eradicating poverty, preserving ecosystems and mitigating and adapting to climate change, must be continued and intensified.

The interaction of the CIS countries with the Food Coalition established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in responding to the impact of COVID-19 can become one of the tools for sharing the experience of the CIS countries in addressing the issues of agricultural development and ensuring food security and contribute to the elimination of hunger in the countries of the world.

GOAL 3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

World Trend

The COVID-19 pandemic, which has claimed more than five million lives²⁷, has clearly demonstrated both the opportunities and shortcomings of modern health systems. Health indicators achieved before the pandemic could change significantly as a result of the ongoing pandemic. In general, the health situation in the world has improved in recent years. According to the UN data for the period of 2014-2020, 83% of births worldwide were attended by skilled health professionals. Between 2000 and 2019, the global under-five mortality rate fell from 76 to 38 deaths per 1,000 live births, and the global rate of early childhood mortality fell from 30 deaths to 17 per 1,000 live births. But in 2019, 5.2 million children died before their fifth birthday, with nearly half of them, (2.4 million), dying in the first month of life. Between 2015 and 2021, the proportion of women of reproductive age (15 to 49 years old) using modern contraceptive methods remained unchanged at 77%. The global adolescent fertility rate fell from 56 births per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 in 2000 to 41 births per 1,000 adolescents in 2020. Between 2010 and 2019, the number of new HIV-infections has decreased from 0.48 cases

²⁷ https://www.statista.com/topics/5994/the-coronavirus-disease-COVID-19-outbreak/#topicHeader__wrapper

per 1,000 uninfected adults (15 to 49 years) to 0.37 per 1,000 uninfected. In 2019, approximately 10 million people fell ill with TB, of which 56% are adult men, 32% are adult women, 12% are children and 8.2% are living with HIV, making it the leading cause of death from a single agent of infection. The incidence of tuberculosis worldwide has decreased from 174 new and recurrent cases per 100,000 people in 2000 to 130 cases per 100,000 people in 2019. that is, by 25%, and the mortality rate from tuberculosis among non-HIV people has decreased by 45% over the same period. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, an estimated 1.4 million fewer people received the necessary care for TB compared to the previous year, that means a 21% decrease in treatment rates. These are only a few out of a long list of indicators that characterize the state of health systems in the world, but they reveal the positive dynamics of the development of these systems before the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2021 UN report on the SDGs assesses the global trends in ensuring healthy lifestyles and promoting well-being for all at all ages (SDG 3) through progress towards four targets: (1) increase the coverage of births attended by skilled health personnel (2) reduce under 5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births (3) end the epidemic of malaria, and (4) increase diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine coverage among one-year-olds²⁸. It was noted that substantial significant progress has been made in the achievement of target (1) and the world is already close to this target. On target (2) the world demonstrates substantial progress but the distance to target remains moderate. On target (3) the world demonstrates limited or no progress and is far from the target. On target (4) the progress is limited and the distance to the target is still moderate.

CIS Progress

The CIS countries are making substantial efforts both at the national and international levels to achieve SDG 3. The CIS Council for Cooperation in the Field of Health (CCFH) is being established and is responsible for coordination of measures taken by the countries to improve public health and combat various diseases. It organizes exchange of experience in addressing health issues. In 2020, the Council, inter alia, discussed the coordination of anti-epidemic measures in the CIS countries; the development of test systems for the detection of the new coronavirus and antibodies to it; the development of vaccines against COVID-19; the

²⁸ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/progress-chart-2021.pdf>

removal of restrictive measures and the criteria used for this; the improvement of a unified system for monitoring and rapid response to emergencies of sanitary and epidemiological origin. The need to summarize the experience in research of the biological properties of the causative agent of the new coronavirus infection COVID-19 to ensure biological safety was emphasized by the CIS CCFH. The CIS CCFH also addresses various other important issues of cooperation in the field of healthcare development.

The indicators presented by CIS countries to the CIS Statistical Committee fairly reflect the progress made towards SDG 3 and the results of the efforts made by national governments to ensure healthy lifestyle and well-being for all at all ages.

Longevity and Mortality

Life expectancy demonstrates an increase in all CIS countries. At the same time, the gap in life expectancy between men and women persists.

Table 4 Mortality (total deaths per 100,000 population)

	from diseases of the circulatory system	from malignant neoplasms	from diabetes mellitus	from respiratory diseases
Republic of Azerbaijan	328	89	13,6	19
Republic of Armenia	246	187	13	31
Republic of Belarus	754	202	2,7	25
Republic of Kazakhstan	163	79	26,1	88
Republic of Kyrgyzstan	266	64	7	29
Republic of Moldova	808	230	14,2	60
The Russian Federation	573	201	28	40
Republic of Tajikistan	171	34	...	21
Turkmenistan
Republic of Uzbekistan	278	46	17,2	19

Ukraine	989	199	...	32
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	- Growth compared to 2016
	- Decline compared to 2016
	- Maintaining the 2016 level

Source: data from the CIS Statistical Committee.

Health expenditures

In most CIS countries, a significant proportion of men will live up to their seventieth anniversary, while women can live up to almost eighty years. The share of health expenditures as a percentage of GDP varies among the CIS countries, but is mostly stable in every country, as is the number of doctors and nurses. This may indicate, inter alia, that states are pursuing a consistent policy in the field of health, which ultimately ensures the stability of the system against various shocks, such as, for example, the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Early Childhood

Early marriages and the birth of children by girls aged 10-15-19 are declining in all CIS countries except the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Alcoholism and drug addiction

The CIS countries are struggling with road accidents and undertake measures for their prevention, as a result mortality from road accidents is decreasing in most countries.

Eradicating negative social habits, such as alcohol abuse and drug addiction, is not easy. In some countries, the number of drug addicts is declining, while in some others countries it continues to grow. The number of patients diagnosed with alcoholic psychosis also demonstrates different trends in different CIS countries (in some countries it shows a decrease, and in some countries demonstrate growth). Perhaps this is partly due to the fact that some countries specialize in wine production, which expands the availability of alcohol and complicates the implementation of anti-alcohol measures.

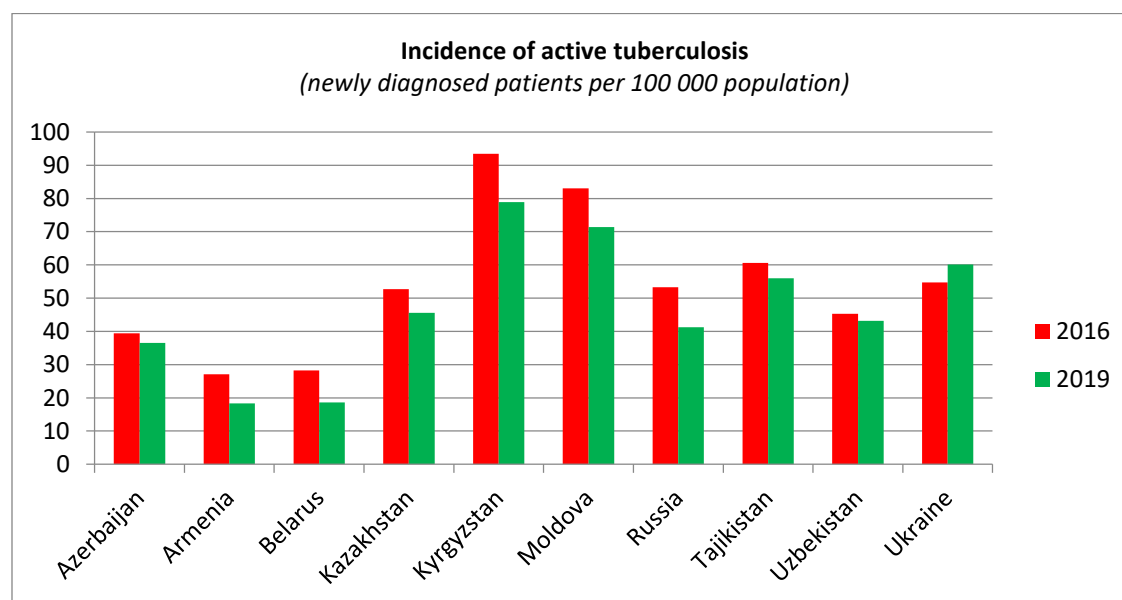
Morbidity from Various Causes

The efforts to combat the spread of alcoholism and drug addiction result in the decrease of the number of suicides observed in all CIS countries.

Mortality from respiratory diseases is gradually decreasing in all CIS countries, while mortality from diabetes in many CIS countries is showing an increase. Recognizing the importance of combating this disease the CIS countries implemented a program of cooperation on the prevention and treatment of diabetes mellitus for 2016-2020 and approved a new Program of cooperation of the CIS member states on the prevention and treatment of diabetes mellitus for 2021-2025 ²⁹. The document is aimed at further development of cooperation between the CIS member states in combatting the increase in the incidence of diabetes mellitus, ensuring the timely detection and effective treatment of patients with diabetes mellitus to achieve maximum quality of life and increase life expectancy.

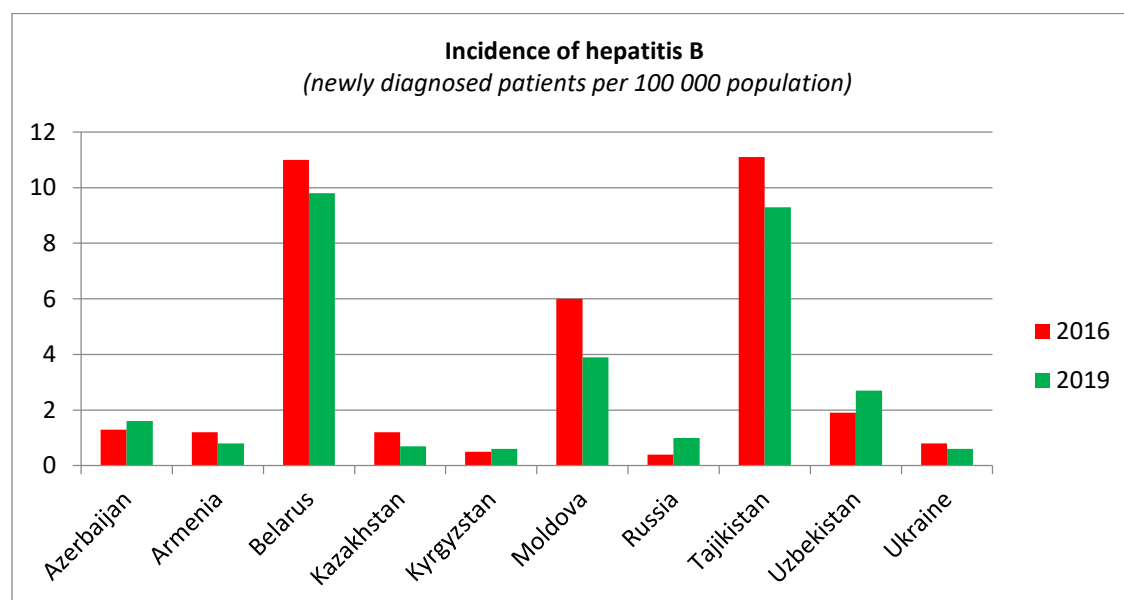
In the CIS countries, mortality rates from neoplasms fluctuate - while in most countries this indicator is decreasing, in some countries it does not demonstrate decrease. The same situation is observed for mortality from cardiovascular diseases.

Figure 4 Active Tuberculosis (per 100,000 population)

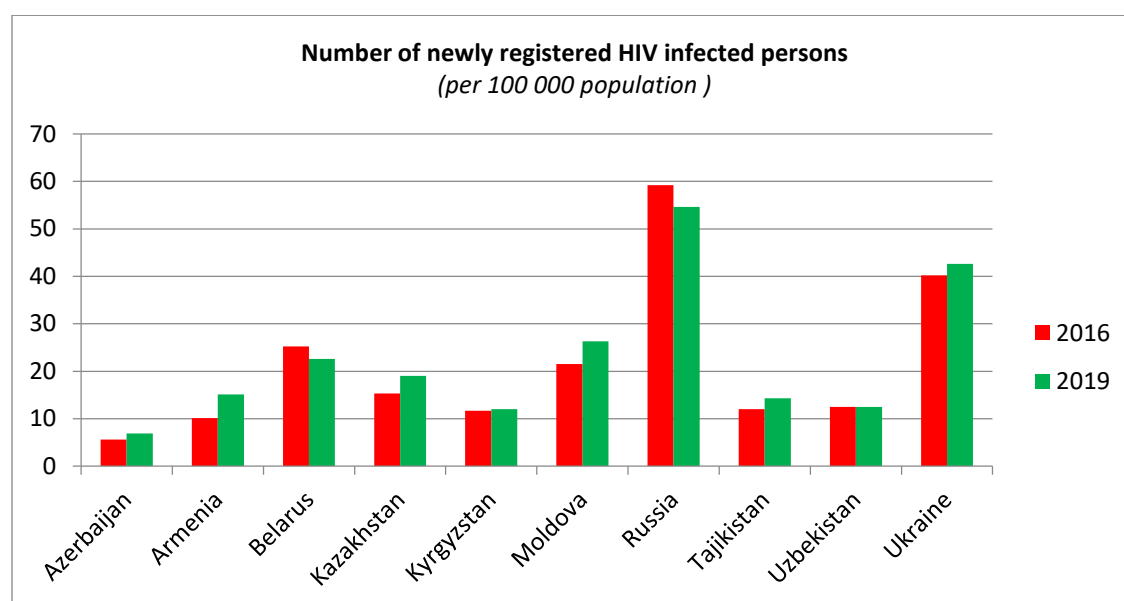


Source: data from the CIS Statistical Committee.

²⁹ <https://e-cis.info/page/3741/89729/>

Figure 5 Hepatitis B (per 100,000 population)

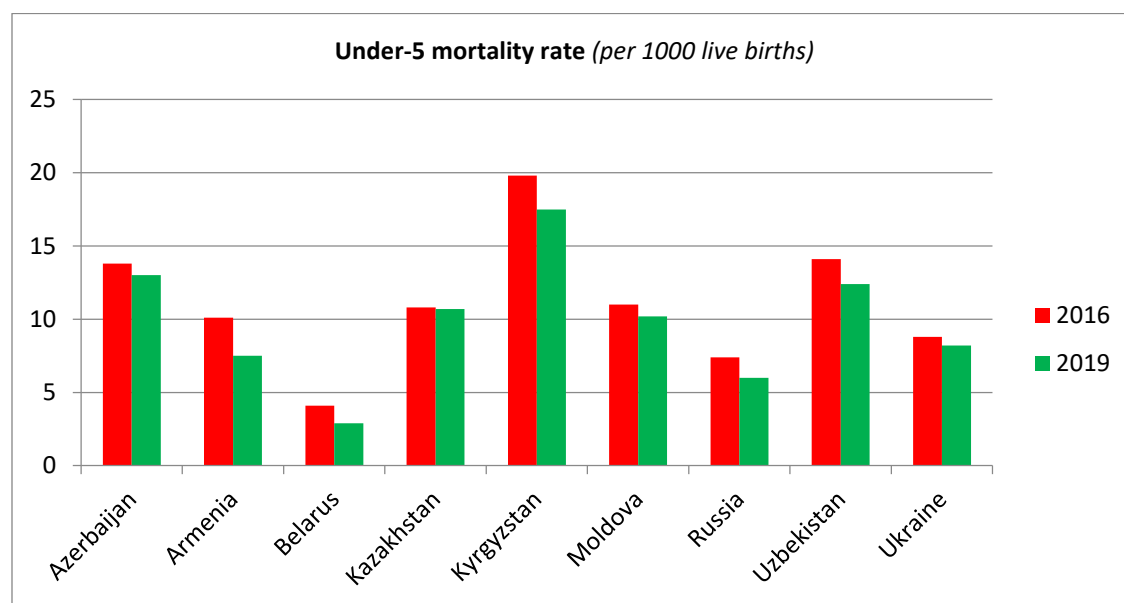
Source: data from the CIS Statistical Committee.

Figure 6 Newly Registered HIV infected Persons (per 100,000 population)

Source: data from the CIS Statistical Committee.

As can be seen from figures 5-7 in all CIS countries, the number of cases of tuberculosis is decreasing, while the cases of hepatitis B are not decreasing in all countries. The HIV infection remains among the diseases requiring increased attention. The incidence of HIV infection in the CIS countries as a whole is not decreasing, and in some countries, there is an increase in the number of infected.

Figure 7



Source: data from the CIS Statistical Committee.

The mortality rate of children under the age of five was decreasing in all CIS countries, and in almost all CIS countries, the neonatal mortality rate was also decreasing. In all CIS countries, maternal mortality has also decreased. Perhaps one of the factors determining the positive dynamics is that practically in all CIS countries the childbirth is held in specialized medical institutions or under the supervision of medical workers.

Challenges to Address

The models of health organization are different in the countries of the world and each model corresponds to the priorities of the national policy in the field of public health and has its advantages and disadvantages. Countries all over the world continue to develop and implement a holistic approach to unified health at the national and local levels. To this end, the CIS countries will continue to strengthen the systems of disease surveillance, early detection and early warning and take action to address the factors contributing to environmental degradation and climate change in order to better prevent health threats. The protection of human, animal and ecosystem health will be further developing, and the fight against antimicrobial resistance will continue.

In the context of the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic, both vaccine production and vaccination of the population will be expanded.

CIS countries will continue to ensure the continuity of non-COVID-19 related health services and strengthen health systems and primary health care services, with special attention to the needs of the most vulnerable, including older persons. Efforts will continue to expand digital and other health-related technologies. In order to update and strengthen the standards of work of public health personnel, the development and modernization of health training curricula and training materials will be continued. Since ensuring a healthy lifestyle depends not only and not so much on the degree of development of health care, but is largely determined by human behavior, the CIS countries will continue informing the population and its explanatory work on the formation of ideas about a healthy lifestyle and its benefits.

GOAL 4. QUALITY EDUCATION.

World Trend

The UN estimates that COVID-19 has had disastrous consequences for the schooling of an entire generation³⁰. Even before the pandemic, progress was slow and insufficient to meet the SDG 4 education targets. In 2020, most countries closed early education facilities and primary schools, hindering or restricting access to education, especially for children from low- and middle-income countries. In the transition to distance learning in the context of COVID-19, representatives of the poorest households and other vulnerable groups of the population are more likely to drop from schools for a long period or permanently stop learning.

In 2019, there were only 92 literate girls and women over the age of 15 for 100 literate boys and men of the same age. In 2020, as per the UN estimates, an additional 101 million children and adolescents (grades 1 to 8) will not have minimal reading skills due to the effects of the pandemic. School closures lead to lagging behind and affect pupils' interest in attending school, and possible poverty increase due to pandemic could exacerbate the obstacles faced by children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Nevertheless, depending on the duration of the school lockdowns the growth of school dropout rates may slow or even begin to decline.

³⁰ UN, "Education in the Age COVID -19 and beyond", concept note, August 2020.
https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/policy_brief_-_education_during_COVID-19_and_beyond_russian.pdf

In the countries of the world there is a lack of basic school infrastructure – only 56% of schools are provided with drinking water, 33% with electricity, 40% with hand washing devices.³¹

The 2021 UN report on the SDGs assesses the progress in ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all (SDG 4) by the progress of achieving (1) target to ensure that all girls' and boys' complete primary education³². It is noted that fair progress has been made in meeting this target, but it needs to be accelerated and distance to target is still moderate.

CIS Progress

The CIS countries attach the utmost importance to education and human development. Back in 1997, an agreement was signed on cooperation in the formation of a single (common) educational space of the CIS. The Council for Cooperation in the Field of Education was established and started its operations. In close cooperation with the Council, seventeen basic organizations of the CIS countries carry out their activities in various areas of development of the educational sphere. These organizations include leading universities of the CIS countries, which coordinate training, up-skilling and re-training of specialists taking into account the needs of the labor market of the CIS countries.

As a result of cooperation and active educational policy at the national level, in almost all CIS countries, except Ukraine, during the period from 2016 to 2019, the coverage of children by preschool institutions was increasing.

At the same time, the index of gender parity³³ in the educational system in the CIS countries in 2020 for pre-school institutions ranges from 0.81 in the Republic of Tajikistan to 1.05 in the Republic of Armenia. It should be noted that the Republic of Armenia was the only one among the CIS countries with a higher than one index for preschool institutions. In all other countries, there are more boys in preschool institutions, than girls. But the picture is beginning to change dramatically for secondary specialized and higher educational institutions. The gender parity index in 7 out of 10 countries for which data is available is greater than one for secondary

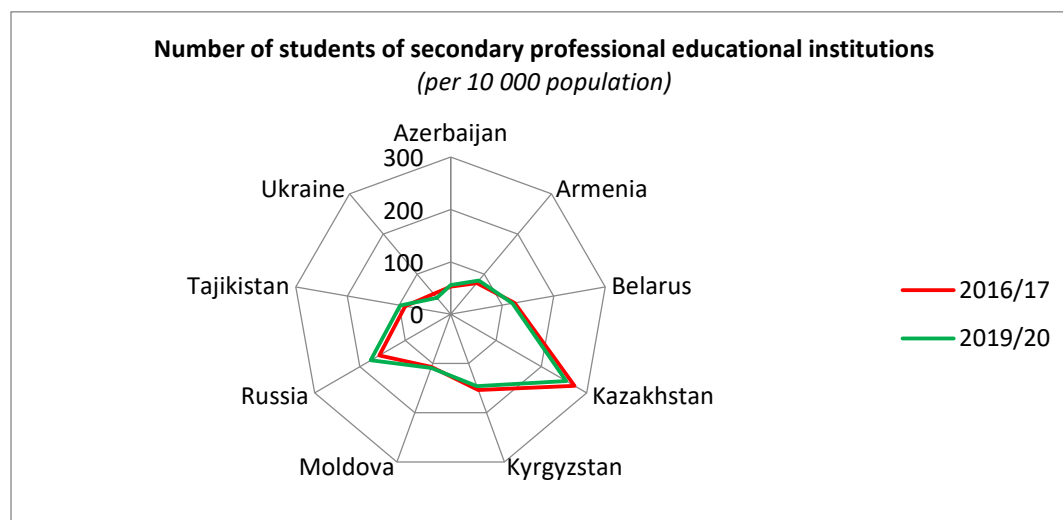
³¹ The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021, available at: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021>

³² <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/progress-chart-2021.pdf>

³³ As defined by UNESCO, a gender ratio of 1 means gender equality; from 0 to 1 predominance of men; more than one predominance of women.

vocational schools and higher education institutions. This indicator shows that women in the CIS countries have equal access to education with men.

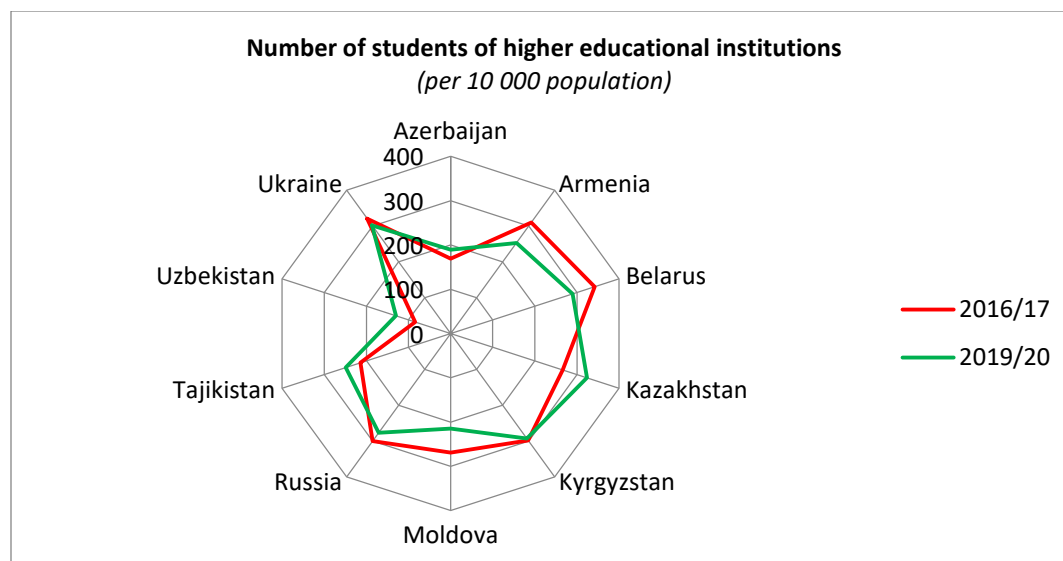
Figure 8(per 10,000 population)



Source: data from the CIS Statistical Committee.

The number of students in secondary vocational schools fluctuated during this period - in a number of CIS countries there was an increase, while in a number of countries there was a decrease of this indicator. It is unlikely that the decline of this indicator can be explained by the processes of de-industrialization of the countries, most likely it is due to the fact that the growing number of young people choose studies at universities, although this assumption requires additional verification and substantive analysis, since the indicator of the number of students of higher educational institutions in the CIS countries also shows fluctuations.

Figure 9 Number of Students of Higher Educational Institutions (per 10,000 population)



Source: data from the CIS Statistical Committee.

In the CIS countries, the use of information and communication technologies is actively progressing. In almost all CIS countries for which data is available more than 90% of schools are equipped with computers for educational purposes, and in many CIS countries 100% of schools have computers. More than half of schools have access to the Internet, and in some CIS countries, for example in the Republic of Kazakhstan, the number of schools with access to the Internet is close to 100%.

The quality of education is largely determined by the professionalism of the teachers. In the CIS countries, more than 70% of teachers of secondary schools have higher education. According to the data for the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Belarus, most teachers have professional pedagogical training corresponding to the educational institution in which they work. Although there are no data for other CIS countries on this indicator, it can be assumed that in other CIS countries employees of the educational system also have appropriate qualifications.

The literacy rate of the population of the CIS countries is close to 100%.

Thus, we can say that the education system of the CIS countries demonstrates stability and positive dynamics.

Challenges to Address

Access to quality education is a fundamental human right and a key tool for promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth. The CIS countries will continue to work to address

inequalities and barriers to education and to implement the principle of ensuring access to quality education for all, paying particular attention to students who may early drop out of school.

The focus on updating the content of education, the introduction of innovative information technologies in schools and universities will continue and will be further developed. The CIS countries are intensifying efforts to bridge the digital divide between young people and older generations, between men and women.

Continuity of education and the expansion of lifelong learning opportunities are important areas of education, contributing to an increase of the flexibility and sustainability of education systems. In accordance with a rapidly changing world, new approaches and methodologies must be developed to make the systems suitable for the future.

Creation of modern educational environment, increasing the professional competence of teachers, developing an inclusive approach to education will remain among the priorities of the CIS countries.

Coordination between education, employment and social policies will be strengthened, and the acquisition of knowledge, skills and competencies that facilitate the transition from education to quality, full-time employment will be promoted.

The formation of a single (common) educational space of the CIS will be continued. As part of the implementation of the Concept for the Further Development of the CIS, approved by the Council of Heads of States of the CIS on December 18, 2020, it is envisaged to develop the languages of the CIS countries and use the Russian language for inter-ethnic communication in the CIS. Work will continue on the development of a regulatory legal framework for the formation of a single (common) educational space of the CIS.

GOAL 5. GENDER EQUALITY

World Trend

The situation with the achievement of gender equality in the world is characterized by the following data³⁴. Over the past decade, nearly 736 million women, or one out of three, have

³⁴ Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Report of the Secretary-General to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. 2021 session 23 June 2020 – 22 July 2021. Agenda item 6. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N21/109/71/PDF/N2110971.pdf?OpenElement>

experienced physical and sexual violence at least once in their lives since the age of 15. 63% of countries still lack laws against rape. Before the pandemic, 100 million girls were married early and the number of girls at risk of early marriage is expected to increase by another 10 million over the next decade. Nearly in a quarter of countries women do not have equal rights with men on such issues as marriage and initiation of divorce proceedings.

Discriminatory laws and gaps in legislation continue to prevent women from fully enjoying human rights. More than 90% of countries prohibit gender discrimination in employment, but nearly half still impose restrictions on women in certain occupations or industries.

In 2019, women accounted for 39% of the global workforce, but only 28.2% of women worked in leadership positions. At the same time, women's labor is significantly more often used in the unpaid sector. Women on average spend about 2.5 times more hours per day than men on unpaid domestic work and childcare services and services to family members in need of care. As of January 1, 2021, data for 135 countries showed that the representation of women in national parliaments is 25.6%. in local authorities - 36.3%.

The 2021 UN report on the SDGs assesses the world situation in achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls (SDG 5) through the progress of reaching two targets: (1) eliminate child marriage and (2) ensure women's full participation and equal opportunities in national parliaments³⁵. With regard to these targets, it is noted that fair progress has been made in their achievement, but moderate distance to these targets still remains.

CIS Progress

The foundations of the policy of gender equality in the CIS countries were laid at the beginning of the last century, when, after the revolution of 1917, the need for women's emancipation and ensuring their equality with men in education and access to the labor market was proclaimed. It was also stated that women and men should have equal working conditions and receive equal wages for equal work. At the same time, paid maternity leave and assistance to working mothers with children were also guaranteed for women. For 75 years, the Soviet state, which included all the CIS countries, built its economic and social policy on the basis of the

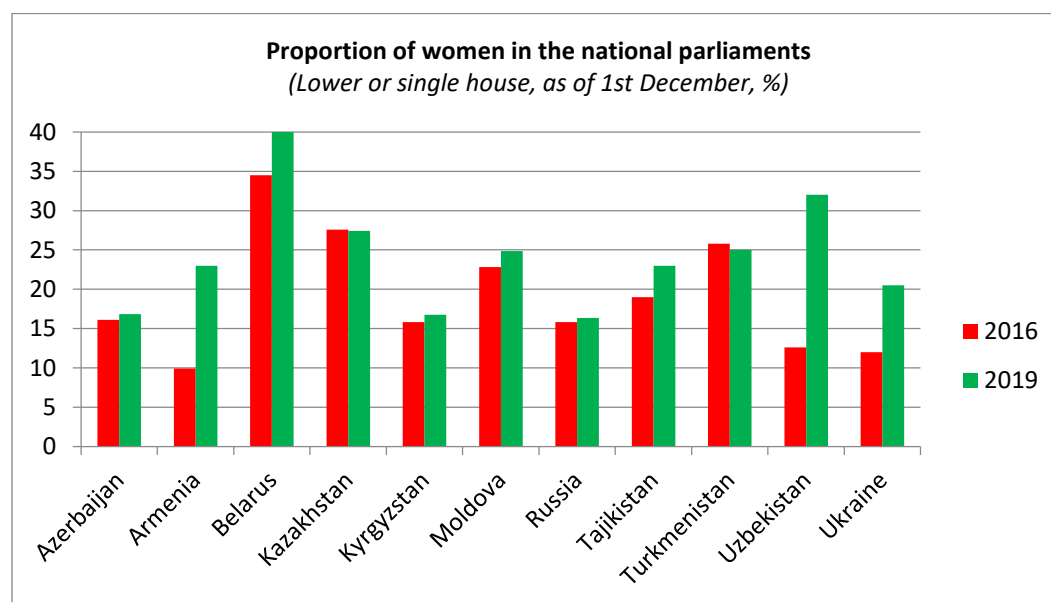
³⁵ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/progress-chart-2021.pdf>

principle of gender equality, which was reflected in the Constitution, labor legislation and other legislative and regulatory acts. Gender issues were practically not discussed, since it was believed that they have been resolved.

The break of the USSR was accompanied by the crisis, which affected all aspects of people's lives and changed the existing gender balance in the CIS countries, including in the labor market.

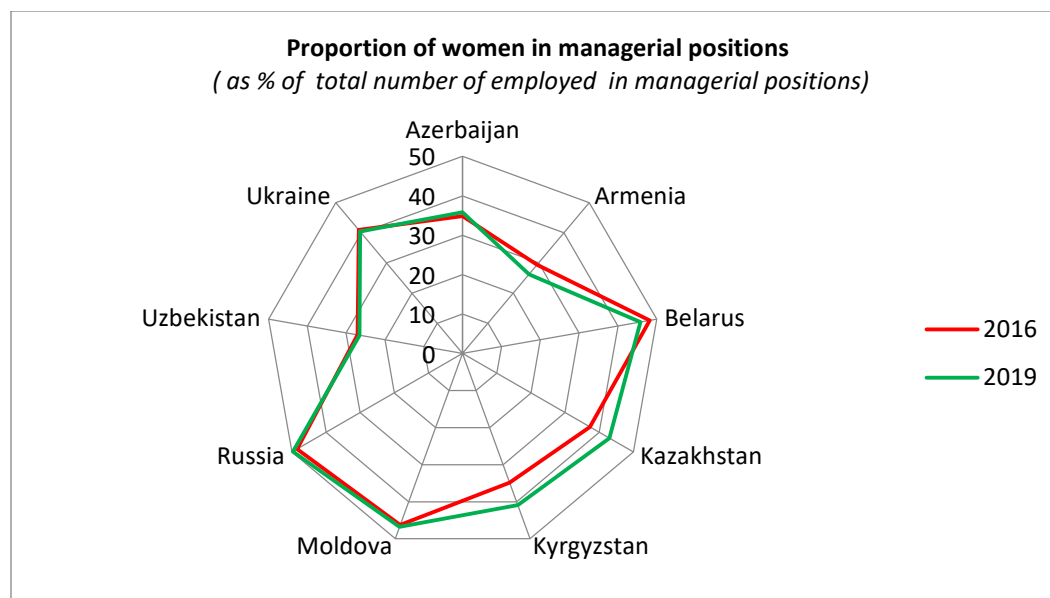
Today, in the CIS countries, gender issues are taken into account in the formulation of public policies and the development of measures to support women, young people, the elderly and other groups of the population. Women's participation in decision-making bodies, including in the parliaments of the CIS countries, is increasing. At the same time, their share in the total number of parliamentarians ranges from 16.3% (The Russian Federation) to 40% (Republic of Belarus).

Figure 10 Proportion Women in National Parliaments



Source: data from the CIS Statistical Committee.

Figure 11 Proportion of women in decision-making positions (% of total number of people in decision-making positions)



Source: data from the CIS Statistical Committee.

Number of women in decision-making positions also demonstrates heterogeneous trends across the CIS countries, ranging from 26.2 % in Republic of Armenia to 49.7 % in the Russian Federation.

The CIS countries are focused on expanding women's opportunities in the labor market, including through the creation of jobs, opportunities for education and training aimed at ensuring that women's skills meet the needs of the labor market, creating an infrastructure that reduces the time of unpaid care and domestic work of women in the country.

The list of professions available to women is expanding. For example, in the Russian Federation, the List of heavy work and work with harmful or dangerous working conditions, in the performance of which the use of women's labor is prohibited, was revised. A new list of industries, works and positions with harmful and (or) dangerous working conditions in which the use of women's labor is limited, was approved by the Order of the Ministry of Labor of the Russian Federation of July 18, 2019 No. 512n and entered into force on January 1, 2021. Compared with the previous list, the new list is reduced by more than four times: instead of 456 items, the order approved 100. The adoption of the new list contributes to the empowerment of women in the labor market, their economic independence and financial security, and allows them to participate in the development of new sectors of the economy.

The development of women's entrepreneurship is another important direction of actions in the CIS countries. Educational programs for the development of entrepreneurship are being introduced in universities.

The reduction of women's unpaid childcare work could be achieved, inter alia, through expanding the number of pre-school institutions. Furthermore, the CIS countries are beginning to develop long-term care systems to help the elderly and people with disabilities and decrease the woman's 'burden of domestic unpaid care work.

The breaking of stereotypes that have been developed in societies represent the greatest difficulty in achieving the goal of gender equality in the CIS countries. While gender equality in education, access to health care, and the labor market is clearly defined by laws and well accepted by the population, domestic behavior is often still dominated by stereotypes. For example, in Russia there is a saying – "If he beets her – it means he love hers", and violence in the family is often not reported, the facts of such violence are not recorded and go unpunished. The fact that such a stereotype has not yet been eliminated in the CIS countries is evidenced by the lack of full-fledged meaningful statistics. To eliminate such stereotypes of thinking and prevent violence against women in the CIS countries, information campaigns and educational work are being carried out. A network of institutions providing social services to women and men who have become victims of domestic violence is being developed.

Challenges to Address

The CIS countries see a key role of the empowerment of women at all levels in ensuring a comprehensive and sustainable economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. They will continue to pursue a focused policy to increase women's participation in the economy and society, working on issues such as education, promoting women's leadership, overcoming gender stereotypes and improving adequate social and educational infrastructure.

Many different aspects of gender equality require a systematic, structured and integrated approach, a common strategy involving authorities, civil society and the private sector.

Work in this direction needs serious information support in order to form a public attitude to gender equality as an integral condition for sustainable development.

GOAL 6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

World Trend

The UN estimates that global water consumption has more than doubled in the last century compared to population growth. In addition to water scarcity, countries face problems of water pollution, degradation of water-related ecosystems, water scarcity caused by climate change, and insufficient cooperation on issues related to transborder waters.

In 2020, 2 billion people (26%) lacked access to safe water services, 3.6 billion (46%) to safe sanitation, and 2.3 billion (29%) to basic hygiene services. One in three people in the world still do not have hand-washing facilities with soap and water at home. Safe treatment of wastewater generated in households in 2020 was estimated at only 56%.

At the same time, the water efficiency indicator³⁶ increased from \$17.30 per m³ in 2015 to \$19 per m³ in 2018, or by 10%.

In 2018, the level of water scarcity worldwide was estimated at 18.4%. From 1970 to 2015, the total area of in land and marine or coastal wetlands decreased by about 35%, which is three times the rate of forest loss.

In 2020, only 24 of the 153 countries sharing transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers have 100% of the area of transboundary water bodies covered by operational arrangements and only another 22 countries have more than 70%.³⁷

In the UN report on the SDGs 2021, the world progress towards ensuring the availability and management of water resources and sanitation for all (SDG 6) is assessed through progress towards two targets (1) achieve universal access to safely managed drinking water services (2) achieve universal access to safely managed sanitation services³⁸. It is noted that there is still moderate distance to both targets with limited or no progress in achievement of the (1) target and fair progress towards the (2) target, though acceleration is still needed.

³⁶ The indicator tracks the value added in United States dollars resulting from the use of the volume of water in cubic meters, in a given type of economic activity over time. It addresses the use of water by all economic activities, with a focus on agriculture, industry and the service sector. This indicator allows us to assess the extent to which their economic growth depends on the use of their water resources. Regional differences in climate and water availability should be taken into account when interpreting this indicator, in particular for agriculture.

³⁷ The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021, available at: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021>

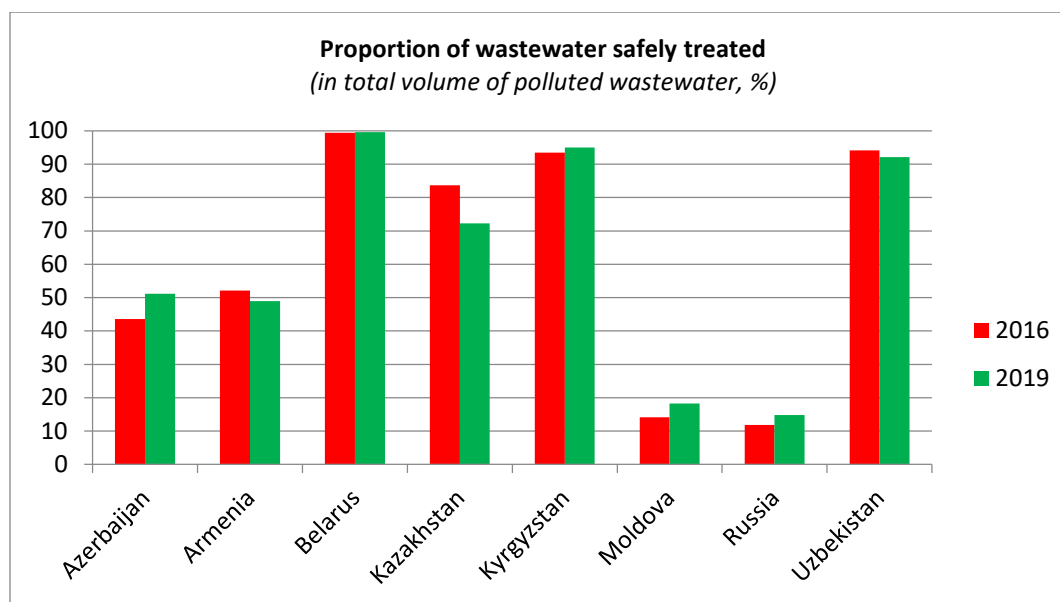
³⁸ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/progress-chart-2021.pdf>

CIS Progress

The CIS countries in their policies on water resources proceed from the fact that water resources comprise the basis of all social, economic and environmental activities and are necessary for food, energy socio-economic, environmental development

Back in 2006, the CIS countries adopted the Model Water Code,³⁹ which establishes the fundamental principles of water policy aimed at sustainable water use and protection of water bodies and their water resources. In the period from 2016 to 2019, the share of safely treated wastewater in the total volume of polluted wastewater in the CIS countries did not change homogeneously - in some countries this share increased, while in others, on the contrary, it decreased (see figure 13).

Figure 12 Proportion of Wastewater Safely Treated (in total volume of polluted wastewater, %)



Source: data from the CIS Statistical Committee.

In terms of water load, freshwater intake as a percentage of available freshwater resources increased in four out of the six countries for which data is available, while in the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Moldova it remained stable. In almost all countries, the intake of water from natural water sources for economic use has increased. The exception was the Republic of

³⁹Cis Model Water Code Adopted at the twenty-seventh plenary session of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS Member States ([Resolution No. 27-10 16 November 2006](https://docs.cntd.ru/document/902050931)) <https://docs.cntd.ru/document/902050931>

Armenia. Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation, where water intake has slightly decreased. Perhaps this is due to the higher efficiency of water use in the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation, however, as for the Republic of Armenia, the efficiency of water use in this mountainous country is small and the decrease in water intake may be due to changes in the structure of economic activity. In general, in the CIS countries, the efficiency of water use, according to the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)⁴⁰ in 2018 ranged from \$ 31.5 USD per 1 meter³. in the Republic of Belarus to \$ 0.4 USD per 1 meter³ in the Republic of Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

Challenges to Address

Recognizing that water resources around the world are at risk due to anthropogenic pressures, the CIS countries will continue taking measures to ensure equal access to available drinking water, hygiene and sanitation for all, including through the exchange of innovations and best practices. The issues of transboundary use of water resources, of improving water intake and purification technologies, issues of improving the efficiency of water use will remain in focus.

GOAL 7. AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY.

World Trend

As noted in the UN report on the Sustainable Development Goals⁴¹, over the past decade, the world has managed to expand access to electricity, increase the use of renewable sources in electricity production and improve energy efficiency. Global access to electricity increased from 83% in 2010 to 90% in 2019, with 1.1 billion people gaining access to electricity for the first time. The share of the world's population without access to electricity fell from 1.22 billion in 2010 to 759 million in 2019.

In 2019, 66% of the world's population had access to clean fuels and cooking technologies, but one-third of the world's population or 2.6 billion people still use dangerous and inefficient kitchen equipment.

⁴⁰FAO.2018. Progress in water pressure determination: a global benchmark for SDG 6.4.2. 2018. Rome. FAO/UN Water. 58 p. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO

⁴¹ The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021, available at: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021>

The share of energy from renewable sources in total global final energy consumption has gradually increased from 16.4% in 2010 to 17.1% in 2018.

The global primary energy intensity increased from 5.6 megajoules per dollar of GDP in 2010 to 4.8 megajoules in 2018, i.e., an average annual growth rate was 2%. Such growth rate if maintained in the future, will not ensure the achievement of the SDG 7. In 2018 the share of energy from modern renewable sources in the total volume of final energy consumption of industries amounted to - transport - 3.4%, heat generation - 9.2%, electro energetics - 25.4%. Obviously, compared to other sources, the share of renewable energy is still small, but increasing.

The UN 2021 SDG Report assesses the global progress in Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (SDG 7) through progress towards two targets (1) universal access to electricity and (2) double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency⁴². The report notes that there is a moderate distance to these targets and at the same time that substantial progress has been made towards reaching the (1) target while progress towards the (2) one is fair but requires acceleration.

CIS Progress

The CIS countries cooperate closely on energy issues. Back in 2009, the Council of Heads of Governments of the CIS approved the Concept of Cooperation of the CIS Member States in the field of energy⁴³. The Concept reflects the agreed views and approaches of the CIS countries to cooperation in the energy sector and defines the goals, main tasks, principles, mechanisms and main areas of cooperation of the CIS countries in this area.

The purpose of cooperation in the energy sector includes ensuring energy security, coverage of internal needs of CIS countries in energy resources at the expense of internal and external sources, increase of export potential of energy resources and their actual export from CIS countries, including through the most effective use of transit opportunities. To do this, countries are actively developing the technological base of the fuel and energy complex, training specialists-power engineers.

Particular attention is paid to the joint development and efficient use of renewable energy sources, the solution of environmental problems of the fuel and energy complex.

⁴² <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/progress-chart-2021.pdf>

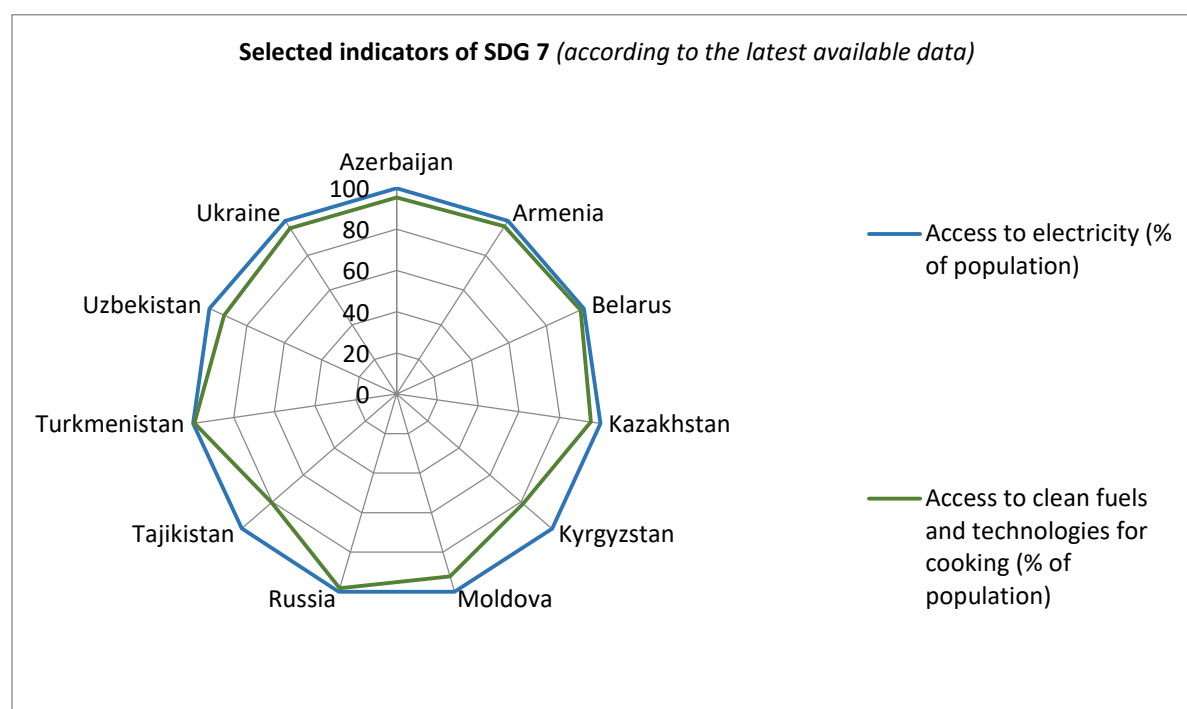
⁴³ <http://cis.minsk.by/reestr/ru/index.html#reestr/view/text?doc=2753>

Cooperation is based on market principles, including pricing and the establishment of transport tariffs in interstate trade of energy resources as a basis for the formation of a common energy market of the CIS countries; on the diversification of sources and directions of energy supply; on the unity of technological norms and rules for the functioning of energy infrastructure. At the same time, transparency, energy efficiency, resource saving and environmental safety are ensured with the legislation of the CIS countries.

The main mechanisms of cooperation are the conclusion of bilateral and multilateral agreements between the CIS countries and between the CIS countries and third countries.

The proportion of the population (households) with access to electricity in all CIS countries exceeds 98 % and is 100 % for most countries (see Figure 14).

Figure 13 Selected Indicators for SDG 7 (latest available data)

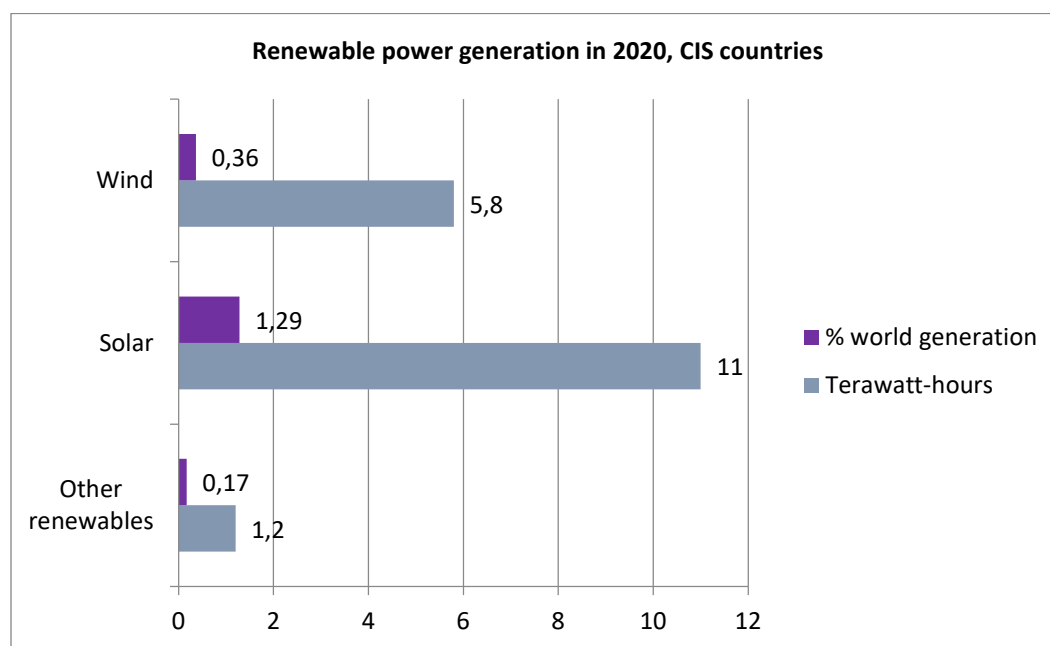


Source: The World Bank. Sustainable Development Goals database.

However, as can be seen from this figure, households are also well provided with clean fuels and cooking technologies.

The production of renewable energy in the CIS countries is also expanding, although its share in the total volume of world production is not large yet (see figure 15).

Figure 14 Renewable Power Generation in 2020, the CIS Countries



*Source: Calculations based on BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2021.
<https://www.bp.com/content/dam/bp/business-sites/en/global/corporate/pdfs/energy-economics/statistical-review/bp-stats-review-2021-full-report.pdf>*

Challenges to Address

Recognizing the link between energy and climate, the CIS countries will continue to work towards accelerating the transition to clean energy to address climate change and achieve SDG 7 by promoting access to energy and moving towards eradicating energy poverty and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The CIS countries will continue to harness and develop the potential of existing clean energy solutions and accelerate the development and deployment of zero- and low-emission technologies and innovations. To this end, investments in low-emission and innovative environmentally friendly technological solutions will increase.

Cooperation between the public and private sectors will be developed, based on the recognition of the importance and ensuring parity of costs for these technologies. To eliminate possible negative side effects of technological solutions, carbon pricing can be an effective tool.

GOAL 8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH.

World Trend

According to the World Bank, between 2015 and 2018, the average growth in global real GDP per capita was about 2%, in 2019 it grew by only 1.3%, and in 2020 it has decreased by 4.6% due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Economic growth is expected to recover in 2021 and 2022, and a return to pre-pandemic levels may occur only in 2022 or 2023.⁴⁴

Due to the global pandemic, business and borders closures in 2020, working hours worldwide have dropped by 8.8%, compared to the fourth quarter of 2019, the equivalent of the 255 million full-time jobs loss. Taken as a whole, the loss of working hours was about four times higher than the number working hours lost during the 2009 global financial crisis. In 2020, another 33 million people in the world were out of work, and the unemployment rate rose by 1.1 percentage points to 6.5%. However, unemployment rates take into account only a small part of the jobs lost as a result of the pandemic. Another 81 million people were not actively looking for work or simply could not find work due to restrictions. Young people and women have also been particularly hard hit by the crisis, with job cuts in 2020 of 8.7% (youth) and 5% (women), respectively, compared to 3.7% for all adults and 3.9% for men.

Globally, one in five young people have not worked or studied in 2019, with little change since 2005. According to quarterly figures, from the fourth quarter of 2019 to the second quarter of 2020, the rate rose in 42 of the 49 countries for which data are available.

Informal labor relations are a major problem for all countries of the world. According to the ILO estimates, 2 billion people in the informal sector in the world, or more than 60 percent of the total employed population⁴⁵ Eight out of ten economic entities work informally, and the contribution of the informal sector to GDP fluctuates across countries, from 14% in high-income countries to 36% in low-income countries. The informal sector is characterized by a lack of basic protection, including social protection. More than three quarters of informal sector workers, or 1.6 billion people, have been significantly affected by the pandemic isolation or have been

⁴⁴ World Bank Database. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.KD.ZG?view=chart>

⁴⁵ Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture, (Third Edition), ILO, Geneva, 2018.

employed in the most affected sectors. These people face a high risk of falling into poverty and will have more difficulties regaining their livelihoods during the economic recovery.

The 2021 UN report on the SDGs assesses the global progress in promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (SDG 8) by the progress made towards achieving two targets (1) sustain per capita economic growth and (2) achieve full employment⁴⁶. First target is close to achievement and there is fair progress in achieving it. There is moderate distance to achieving the second target, and the situation is deteriorating.

CIS Progress

The CIS countries are doing a lot to ensure economic growth both at the national level and at the CIS level as a whole. In May 2020, the Council of CIS Heads of Governments adopted the CIS Economic Development Strategy for the period up to 2030⁴⁷. The document notes that the CIS countries have huge resources for economic development. The CIS occupies 16% of the world's territory, and is home to 286 million people, or 3.8% of the world's population. The CIS countries account for almost 30% of the world's natural gas and coal reserves, 20% of oil, 36% of uranium, 20% of gold, 13% of arable land, etc.

In the last decade (2009-2019), the economic development of the CIS countries was uneven: periods of growth in the total GDP of the CIS were replaced by a downturn (in 2009 and 2015) and a recession (in 2014 and 2016). In 2019, the total GDP of the CIS was 4.4% of global GDP at purchasing power parity (in 2009 - 5%). In 2019, GDP per capita averaged 21171.2 USD (at purchasing power parity) and was higher than the world average. The total GDP of the CIS countries in 2020, according to preliminary estimates, decreased in real terms by 2.7% (in 2019 it increased by 2.5%).⁴⁸

The main goal of cooperation between the CIS countries in the field of economic development is to create favorable conditions for sustainable economic growth, to upgrade the standard of living, and the well-being of citizens of the CIS countries.

One of the important elements of the interaction is the rational use of labor resources and the formation of a common labor market. Legal and institutional conditions are created for the

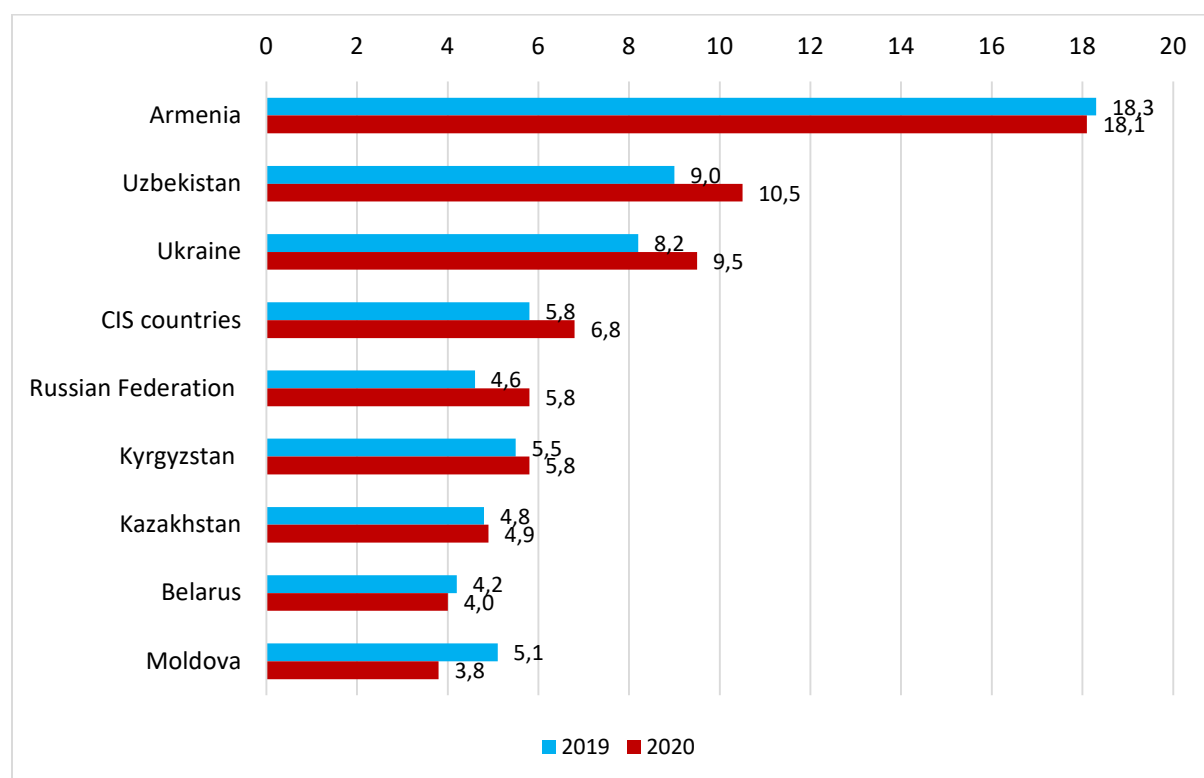
⁴⁶ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/progress-chart-2021.pdf>

⁴⁷ <http://cis.minsk.by/reestr/ru/index.html#reestr/view/text?doc=6229>

⁴⁸ Main macroeconomic targets development of the economy of the CIS member states for 2020.

regulation, exchange and rational use of labor in the CIS countries, as well as the free movement of labor through the territories of the CIS, taking into account the socio-economic interests and requirements of the labor markets of each state. The total number of unemployed in the CIS countries in 2020 has increased by 15% compared to 2019 and amounted to 9.1 million people, or 6.8% of the labor force/economically active population (unemployment rate). The unemployment rate for the CIS countries in 2019 and 2020 in % of the labor force/economically active population according to the ILO methodology is shown in Figure 16.

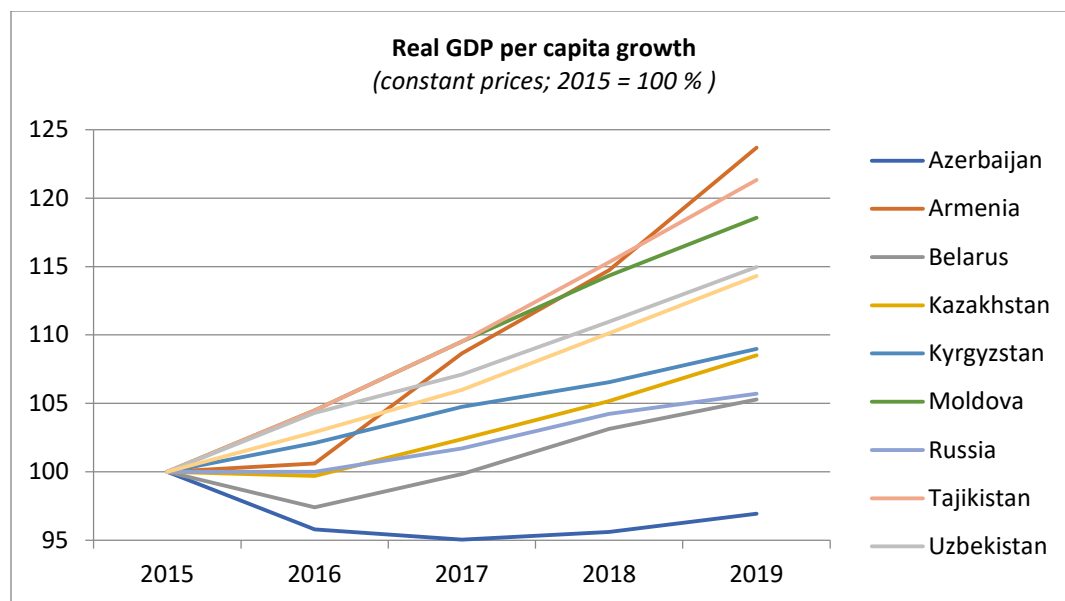
Figure 15 Unemployment Rate in CIS countries in 2019 and 2020 (in% of the labor force/economically active population according to the ILO methodology)



Source: Information on the main target macroeconomic indicators for the development of the economy of the CIS member states for 2020.

Per capita GDP growth in most of the CIS countries rose through 2019 and declined as a result of the pandemic in 2020 (see Figure 17). The exception is the Republic of Tajikistan, where GDP per capita increased by about 2% in 2020.

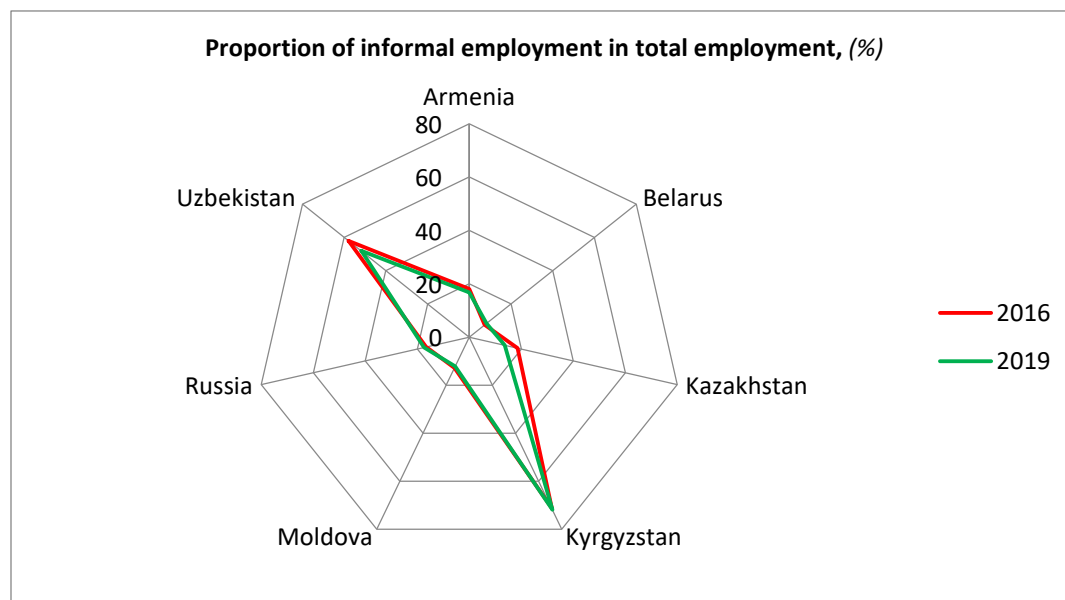
Figure 16 Growth Rate of GDP per capita (2015=100%)



Source: data of the CIS Statistical Committee. Data for 2020, except for Republic of Armenia, Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation, are estimates of the World Bank.
<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.KD.ZG?view=chart>

In the CIS countries, the issues of informal employment, as in other countries of the world, are under permanent attention (see Figure 18).

Figure 17 Share of Informal Employment in Total Employment (%)



Source: data from the CIS Statistical Committee.

Overall, in the CIS countries, the dynamics of informal employment shows a slight decline, but the issue of formalization of the labor market remains extremely relevant, since especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the informally employed workers have

been most disadvantaged, since all state support was designed to support the formal labor market.

Challenges to Address

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated inequalities in the CIS economies and labor markets that have disproportionately affected women, young and low-skilled workers. As CIS countries are coming out of the crisis, concerted, inclusive and human-centered measures will be applied to ensure greater social inclusion, justice, safe and healthy working conditions and decent work for all.

Efforts should continue to address gender disparities in the world of work, ensure access to educational opportunities for women and girls and promote gender equality, as well as rapidly increase women's participation in the labor market and women's employment.

Social protection in the CIS countries aims to reduce inequalities while supporting inclusive and sustainable growth, strengthening social cohesion and addressing the challenges posed by ongoing labor market transformations.

The strengthening of the regulatory framework for the organization of remote work and work through electronic platforms remains an important issue. For this, inter alia, it is necessary to harmonize the definitions of the employee, employment status, and develop an approach to the classification of the self-employed. Issues of classifications are becoming especially relevant in the context of the development of the digital economy. Work will be intensified to bridge the digital gender gap and ensure that new forms of employment do not increase inequality between generations.

Measures will continue to be taken to strengthen active labor market policies and ensure access to adequate social protection for all.

GOAL 9. INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

World Trend

The global COVID-19 pandemic, according to the UN, had a negative impact on progress towards SDG 9, but at the same time it offers opportunities to stimulate industrialization and the introduction of advanced technologies in developing countries.

The pandemic has affected different industries unevenly. Medium- and high-tech industries, such as pharmaceuticals, computer technology, electronics and the automotive industry, have recovered from the crisis faster than industries with lower technological intensity.

In 2018, the growth rate of value added in the manufacturing was the lowest since 2012. Manufacturing value added per capita in 2020 was just 135 USD in the least developed countries, compared to 4194 USD in Europe and North America. Manufacturing growth in the least developed countries is expected to be 1.2% in 2020, compared to 8.7% in 2019.

The pandemic has affected small businesses that continue to face difficulties, including limited access to financial resources. Prior to the pandemic, only 29.3% of small businesses used loans or lines of credit. The pandemic could further reduce that share.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, international shipping is expected to decline by 4.1% in 2020 and global container shipping by 2.1%.

The number of air passengers worldwide has decreased by 60% from 4.5 billion in 2019 to 1.8 billion in 2020.

According to 2018 and 2019 data for 25 countries in Africa, Asia, South America, Central Asia and the Middle East, nearly 300 million of the 520 million rural population still lack reliable access to roads.

The share of global GDP invested in research and development has increased from 1.61% in 2010 to 1.73% in 2018 and amounted to 2.2 trillion USD. At the same time, the number of researchers per million citizens increased from 1022 researchers in 2010 to 1235 researchers in 2018. Number of researchers is unevenly distributed across countries and regions ranging from 3847 scientists in Europe and North America to only 99 scientists in sub-Saharan Africa. At the same time, in 2018, the proportion of women among researchers worldwide was only 30.5%.

In the UN report on the SDGs 2021, the world progress towards building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and innovation (the SDG 9) is assessed through the progress in reaching three targets (1) Significantly raise industry's share of GDP (2) Substantially increase the expenditure for scientific research and development as a proportion of GDP (3) Increase access to mobile networks⁴⁹. According to UN experts, world is

⁴⁹ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/progress-chart-2021.pdf>

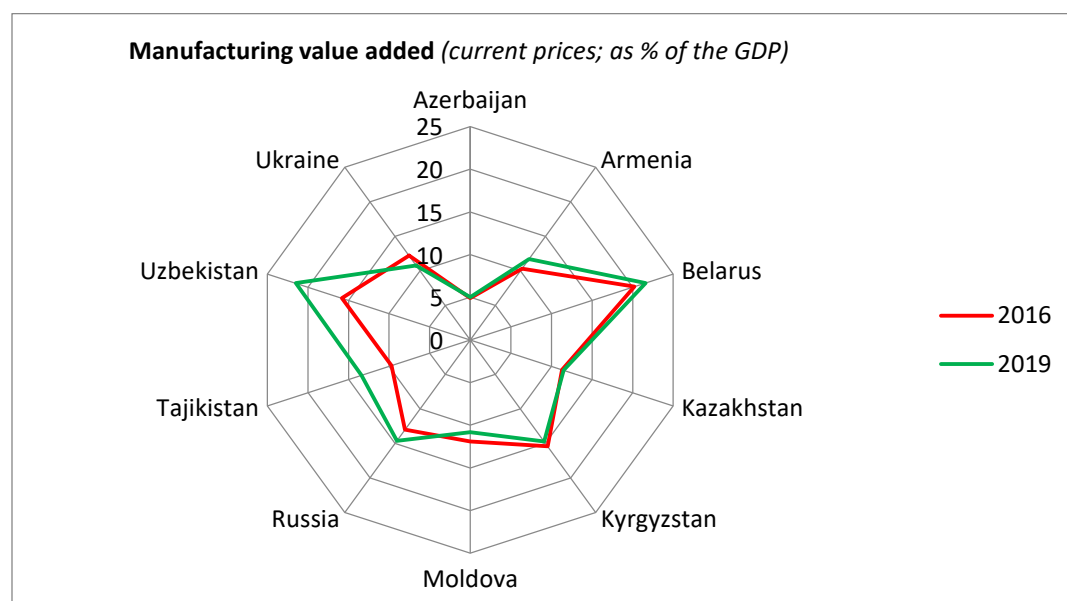
close to reaching the target (1) and target (3), while moderate distance to target (2) still remains. The progress towards targets (1) and (2) is limited, and progress towards (3) is assessed as substantial and the work is on schedule.

CIS Progress

The CIS countries are actively working to create infrastructure, promote industrialization and innovation both at the national level and by expanding cooperation in these areas.

The predominance of industries with low value added is still preserved in the structure of the CIS economies⁵⁰. Figure 19 shows value added in the CIS manufacturing as a percentage of GDP.

Figure 18 Manufacturing Value Added (as a percentage of GDP at current prices)



Source: data from the CIS Statistical Committee.

The economic development of some of the CIS countries depends on the formation of world prices and demand for a rather narrow range of export goods, the flow of foreign financial resources, remittances of migrant workers.

The key objectives of the CIS countries include modernization of the economies, and increasing the role of new technologies and innovative solutions that can change the sectoral

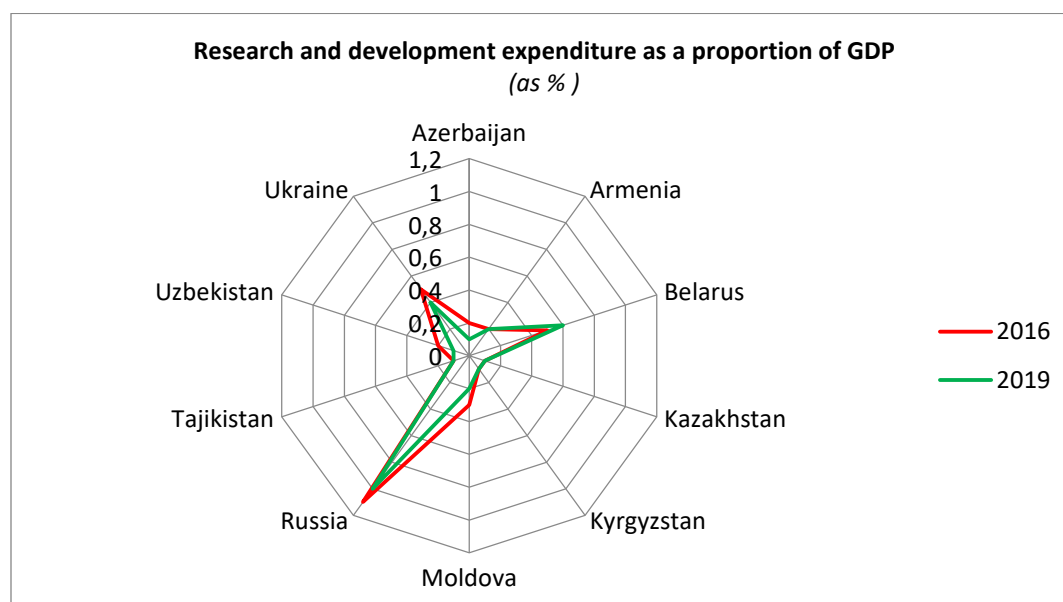
⁵⁰Strategies for the economic development of the Commonwealth of Independent States for the period up to 2030 <http://cis.minsk.by/reestr/ru/index.html#reestr/view/text?doc=6229>

structure of the CIS economy as a whole, expand the horizon for the use of information and communication technologies (ICT), artificial intelligence, robotics, biotechnologies; materials with specified characteristics, new generation electronics, new energy sources, methods of its storage and transmission, etc.

An important role is given to the development of small business. The main directions of support for small business, carried out at the CIS level, are defined in the Agreement on support and development of small business⁵¹. They include, inter alia, facilitation of contacts between small businesses of the CIS countries; creation of conditions for activation of exports activities of small businesses, assistance in development of their innovative activities; provision of financial, credit and investment support for small businesses; convergence of the regulatory framework, formation of positive public opinion on small business; training of personnel for small business.

Cooperation of the CIS countries in the field of innovation is aimed at creating an interstate innovation space that combines the capabilities of national innovation systems. Today, the expenses of the CIS countries on scientific research and development, which are the basis of innovations, are as follows (see Figure 20).

Figure 19 Share of Research and Development Expenditure as a proportion of GDP (%)



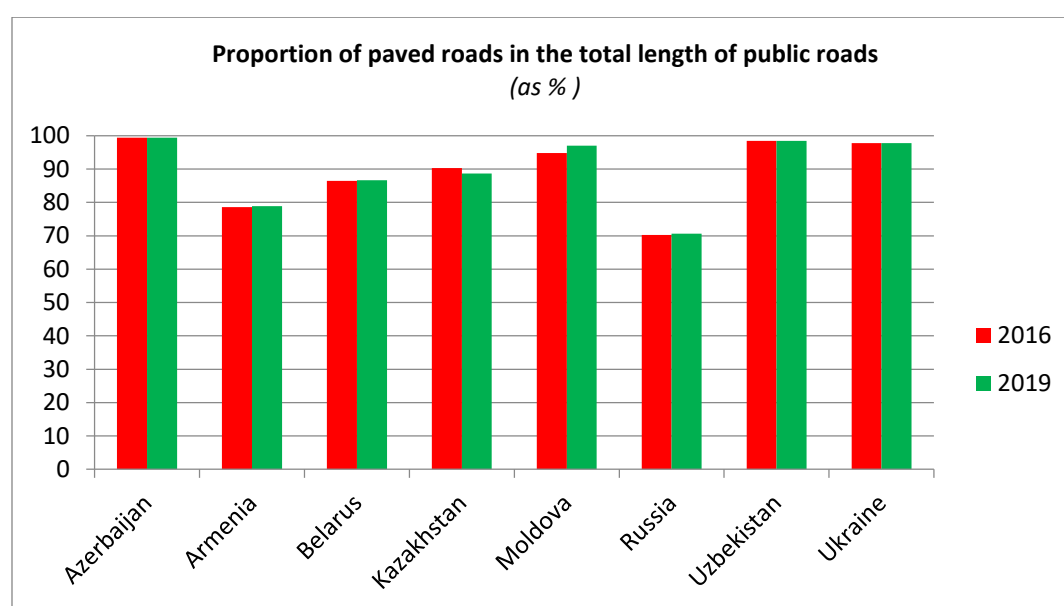
Source: data from the CIS Statistical Committee.

⁵¹ Agreement on support and development of small business in the CIS member states <https://e-cis.info/cooperation/2933/77153/>

The number of researchers (in the equivalent of full employment) per million inhabitants of the CIS countries vary significantly. The number of researchers ranges from 2731 in the Russian Federation to 407 in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Road and transportation networks are important elements of infrastructure. If the delivery of cargo and passenger transportation by all types of transport in the CIS countries showed positive dynamics in the period from 2016 to 2019, the construction of roads did not demonstrate intensive growth (see Figure 21).

Figure 20 Proportion of Paved Roads in the Total Length of Public Roads (%)



Source: data from the CIS Statistical Committee.

Challenges to Address

Building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and innovation, or, in other words, achieving SDG 9 takes place in the context of digital development. The digital economy requires quality education and the expansion of scientific research aimed at using the potential of technologies and innovations to solve the economic and social problems facing the CIS countries today. Digitalization contributes to achieving the following objectives: (i) increase productivity; (ii) improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public administration; (iii) accelerate the digital transformation of business, employment and higher education models; and (iv) stimulate scientific breakthroughs. Much is being done by the CIS countries to move in this direction, but it is necessary to accelerate these processes,

including those related to the education of the population and the reduction of the digital gap between generations.

Attention should also be drawn to the complexity of the goal, as it is closely linked to the development of education, energy conservation and other aspects of socio-economic development.

As the CIS countries work to recover from the pandemic, they are supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, and measures should be envisaged to actively integrate them into the digital economy as a part of support provided to small businesses. Continued attention should also be paid to consumer protection in the face of an increase in the share of new goods and services.

In order to digitally transform production for sustainable growth, the CIS countries will intensify actions, policies and international cooperation.

Special attention will be paid to the application of the blockchain and the expansion of the participation of the CIS countries in supply or value chains.

GOAL 10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES

World Trend

The UN estimates that modest progress has been made in reducing inequality in some areas before the pandemic, but inequality persists in income, wealth, opportunity and other aspects. The pandemic exacerbates existing inequalities within and between countries and has hardest hit the most vulnerable and the poorest countries.

The link between inequality and economic growth is not absolute, while measures to reduce inequality, such as increasing access to quality education, expanding the coverage of social protection, fiscal policies and creating an enabling environment for business, can help accelerate economic growth.

Inequality within countries is generally measured through income indicators. The coefficient of funds⁵² and the Gini coefficient⁵³ are used for these purposes. The International

⁵² The coefficient of funds (income differentiation coefficient) characterizes the degree of social stratification and is defined as the ratio between the average levels of cash incomes of the 10% of the population with the highest incomes and the 10% of the population with the lowest incomes.

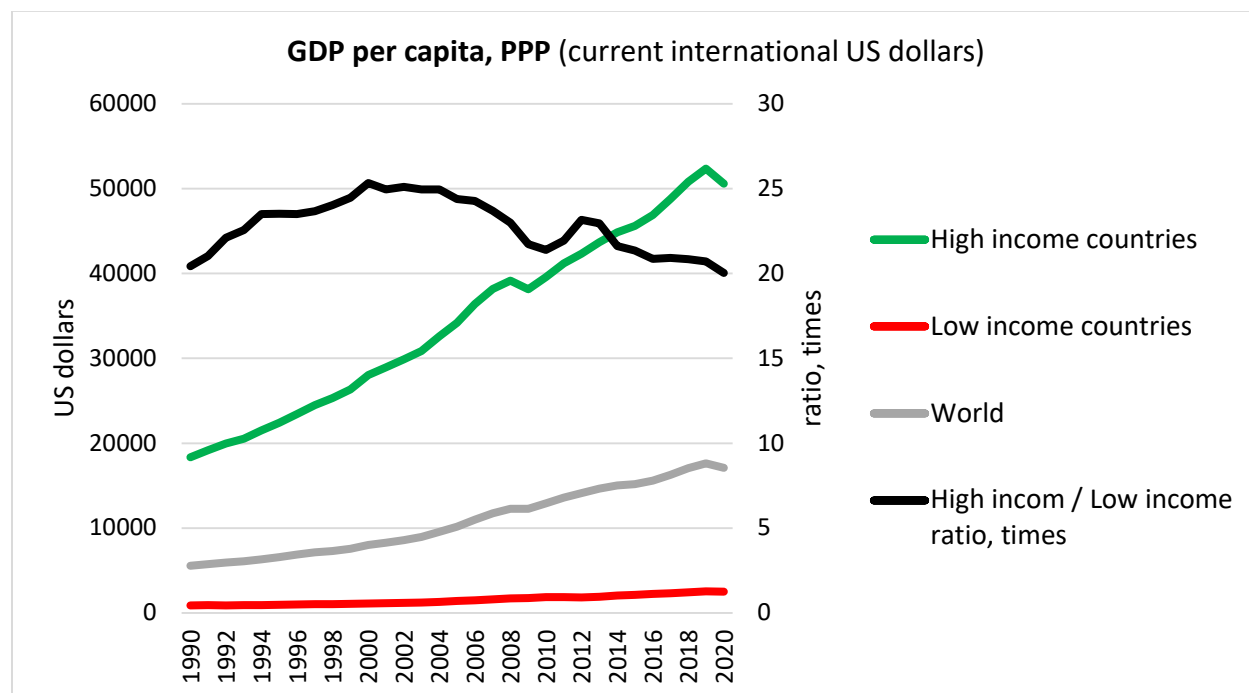
⁵³ The Gini coefficient (income concentration index) shows the uneven distribution of incomes of the population. The Gini coefficient can vary between 0 and 1, and the higher the value of the indicator, the more unevenly

Monetary Fund estimates that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the average Gini index for emerging market and developing economies will rise by more than 6%, and uneven greater impact is projected for low-income countries ⁵⁴

Inequality reveals itself not only in the income gap, but also in the growing number of refugees due to wars, conflicts, human rights violations and events that seriously disrupt public order. By mid-2020, the number of people who had fled their countries and became refugees had risen to 24 million, the highest on record. The number of refugees outside the country of origin had risen to 307 out of every 100,000, more than doubled the number as of the end of 2010.

The ratio of GDP per capita by country allows us to judge the inequality between countries (see Figure 22).

Figure 21 GDP per Capita for Countries with Different Income Levels (international US dollars at current prices, at purchasing power parity)



Source: Calculations based on the World Bank database.

The gap in GDP per capita between rich and poor countries was widening until 2001, when countries began to implement the MDGs. Since then, this gap has continued to slowly

distributed the income. Theoretically, the extreme values correspond to a situation where the entire population of a country receives the same income (Gini coefficient = 0), or when one person receives all income (Gini coefficient = 1).

⁵⁴ International Monetary Fund, "World Vision Economics: A Long and Difficult Ascent" (Washington, D.C., 2020).

narrow, although it remains significant – GDP per capita in high-income countries is more than twenty times higher than in low-income countries.

Today, inequalities between countries are also evident in access to COVID-19 vaccines. Already the global community is taking various initiatives to help low-income countries fight COVID-19. According to the statement of WHO at the UN General Assembly in September 2021, more than 5.7 billion doses of vaccines have been used worldwide, but 73% of all doses have been used in only 10 countries. In high-income countries, the number of doses administered per capita is 61 times higher than in low-income countries. The longer the imbalance in vaccine supply persists, the more intensely the virus will circulate and evolve and the longer the social and economic disaster will last.⁵⁵

WHO has set a goal to vaccinate at least 40% of the population of each country by the end of this year, and to bring this figure to 70% by the middle of the next year. These targets are achievable provided that countries and manufacturers make real efforts to ensure equitable access to vaccines.

The 2021 UN report on the SDGs assesses the world progress in reducing inequalities within and between countries (SDG 10) by the progress of achieving of one target (1) reduce inequality within countries⁵⁶. It is noted that the distance to this target is still moderate, and the progress on its implementation is limited or absent.

CIS Progress

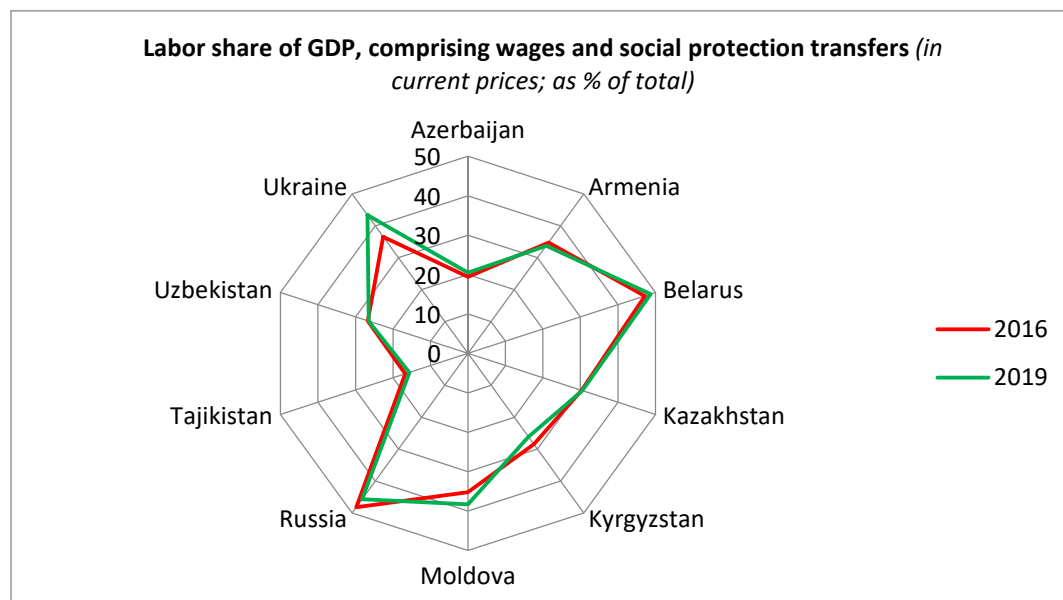
The CIS countries are developing unevenly and inequality is observed in each of the countries. At the national level, various programs are being developed and implemented in countries, which, inter alia, contribute to reducing inequality in various forms - reducing poverty, expanding educational opportunities, access to health care, creating conditions for decent employment, accelerating economic growth. Cooperation of countries in the field of education, labor relations, also contributes to solving inequality issues at the national level.

⁵⁵ <https://www.who.int/ru/news/item/17-09-2021-who-calls-on-world-leaders-at-the-un-general-assembly-to-focus-on-vaccine-equity-pandemic-preparedness-and-getting-the-sdgs-back-on-track>

⁵⁶ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/progress-chart-2021.pdf>

The share of household incomes in GDP by country has changed in different ways since 2016 – in most countries there has been growth, while in some countries there has been a slight decrease (see Figure 23).

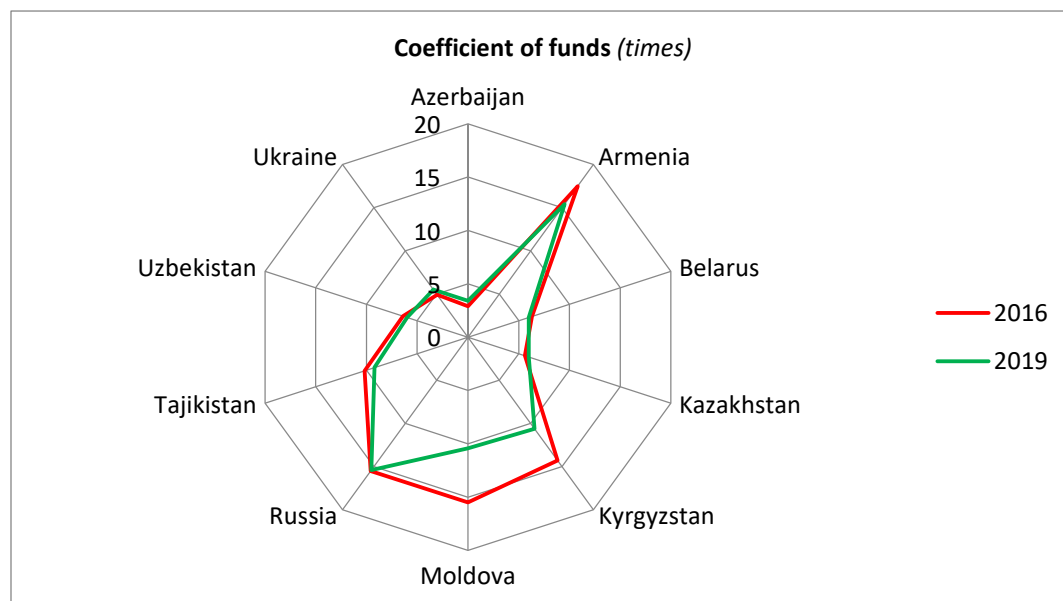
Figure 22 Share of Workers' Income in GDP, Including Wages and Social Protection Payments (at current prices; %)



Source: data from the CIS Statistical Committee.

The difference between the poorest and the richest in the CIS countries show a downward trend, but remains very significant (see Figure 24).

Figure 23 Ratio of Funds, times



Source: data from the CIS Statistical Committee.

The complex nature of SDG 10 and its relationship with the goals of poverty eradication, education development and others require increased interaction of various participants in the implementation process and requires a significant amount of diverse information that is not always available in the CIS countries.

Challengers to Address

To address inequality in the CIS countries and implement SDG 10, it is necessary to address not only income inequality, but also inequalities in access to education, healthcare, housing and social protection services.

However, income inequality and inequality in access to education, gender inequality and other forms of inequality arise from the quality of employment. Except for the issue of improving the quality of employment and ensuring the associated decent wages, safe working conditions, etc. to better address inequality, countries need to start discussing the quality of life, including the quality of employment and the quality of social and other services provided to workers and their families. The higher is the quality of these services, the higher is the incentive to qualify for them, the higher is the incentive to move from informal to formal employment. The higher are the chances of equality.

GOAL 11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

World Trend

The development of cities and human settlements is an important factor in ensuring the quality of life of the population. According to the UN, between 1990 and 2019, spatial urbanization was much faster than population growth, with small towns urbanizing faster than larger ones. On average, all regions except sub-Saharan Africa and East and Southeast Asia saw a steady increase in build-up area per capita, with the highest rates recorded in Australia and New Zealand. Only half of the world's urban population has convenient access to public transport, (defined as living within walking distance) – within 500 meters from a low-capacity transport system, and within 1,000 meters from a high-capacity transport system. In 2020, on average, only about 16% of urban areas were allocated to streets and open public spaces, well below the number recommended by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) - 30% for streets and another 10-15% for open public spaces.

The number of slum dwellers in the world has been growing for many years. In 2018, it exceeded 1 billion people. Air pollution, lack of open public spaces and difficult access to public transport are aggravating. As a result, quality of people's life is deteriorating and vulnerability is increasing.

National urban strategies have been developed in 156 countries, but only half of the countries have begun implementation.

The 2021 UN SDG Report assesses the global progress in ensuring the openness, safety, resilience and environmental sustainability of cities and human settlements (SDG 11) by the progress of one target (1) reduce the proportion of urban population living in slums⁵⁷. It is noted that this target is still far away from achievement, and the situation with its implementation is deteriorating.

CIS Progress

Despite the fact that according to the basic organization of the CIS countries for technical regulation in the construction complex, the world's experience in the development of the regulatory and technical framework for construction in the field of "sustainable" ("green") construction, the creation and development of "smart" cities and planning their life cycle significantly exceeds the experience of the CIS countries⁵⁸, the CIS countries are actively engaged in solving these issues, focusing on the objective of achieving SDG 11

The development of a unified regulatory and technical framework for construction provides for the sustainability of construction aimed at ensuring environmental sustainability (pursues the goal of preserving nature and the environment), economic sustainability (ensures the durability of use and economic efficiency), and social sustainability, (guarantees residents of cities and settlements the realization of their rights to quality housing and affordable infrastructure).

⁵⁷ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/progress-chart-2021.pdf>

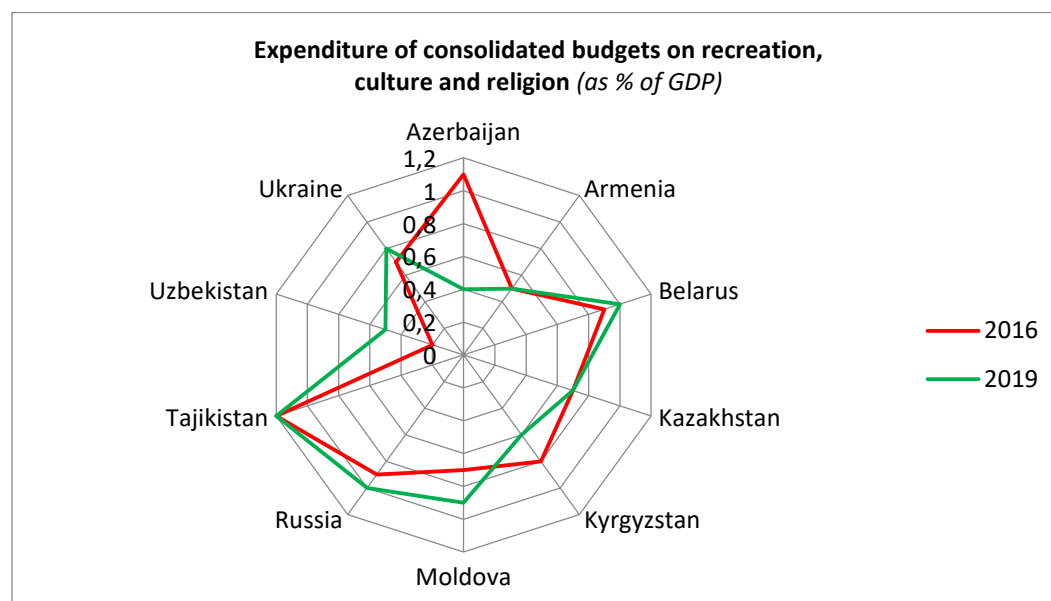
⁵⁸ Report on the activities of the basic organization of the CIS member states on the problems of technical regulation in the construction complex (for 2017-2019). <https://e-cis.info/upload/iblock/2ed/2eda85c0ced36cbb0e8da3648af9ea04.doc>

The main parameters of green construction of buildings are low operating costs, achieved due to high efficiency of buildings and reduction of energy and water consumption. The green construction also has the function of preserving human health due to improved internal environment and reduced negative impact on the environment.

Within the framework of cooperation, the CIS countries are developing models of smart cities that can perceive, plan and correctly respond to changing conditions (natural, climatic, socio-demographic, technological) and guarantee a safe, environmentally protected life with advanced infrastructure that stimulates sustainable economic growth and a high quality of life. The implementation of these plans will enable the CIS countries to ensure openness, security, resilience and environmental sustainability of cities and human settlements and achieve SDG 11.

As part of the implementation of this goal, the CIS countries are also intensifying efforts to protect and preserve the world's cultural and natural heritage. Expenditures of the consolidated budget on recreation, culture and religion in the CIS countries (see figure 25).

Figure 24 Expenditures of Consolidated Budgets on Recreation, Culture and Religion (% of GDP)



Source: data from the CIS Statistical Committee.

As can be seen from Figure 25, expenditures for these purposes in the CIS countries are changing in different directions - in most countries they have increased over the period 2016 = 2019, and in a number of countries have decreased. At the same time, it should be noted that a

wider range of indicators is needed to assess the attitude of countries to the preservation of cultural and natural heritage.

Challenges to Address

The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the need to develop effective strategies to improve the quality of life in cities and enhance their role as contributors to sustainable development, including through sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Local action plays an important role in addressing these issues. CIS countries will continue taking measures to increase adaptation capacity in cities to reduce vulnerability to climate change.

It is necessary to further develop interaction, partnerships and exchange of experience between the cities of the CIS countries.

It is necessary to link spatial and physical planning of cities with investments in a wide range of sectors, including through the use of public procurement, to improve the well-being of the population.

There is a need to improve resource efficiency and waste management, expand the use of full-cycle approaches and accelerate the transition of cities to clean energy; and increase the sustainability of local food systems.

GOAL 12. RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

World Trend

Humanity's desire for so-called rational models of production and consumption is based on the need to prevent climate change, loss of biodiversity and pollution of the planet. Efficient use of resources and minimization of environmental impact should contribute to sustainable economic growth and improve human well-being.

According to the UN, in 2020, countries around the world developed 136 strategies and 27 measures to ensure rational production and consumption, bringing the total number for the period starting with 2017 to over 700. However, despite the adoption of strategies to improve the efficiency of resource use in certain industries or sectors, measures to rationalize production

were not widely applied. Global material footprint per capita has grown by almost 40% - from 8.8 metric tons in 2000 to 12.2 metric tons in 2017. At the same time, domestic per capita material consumption increased by more than 40%, - from 8.7 tons in 2000 to 12.2 tons in 2017. Although the relevant data is not available, estimates suggest that 14% of the world's food is lost without reaching the consumer. The volume of plastic waste is growing. Every minute, 1 million plastic water bottles are bought in the world and 5 trillion plastic bags are thrown away. The generation of e-waste is growing. In 2019, the amount of e-waste was 7.3 kg per capita, while only 1.7 kg per capita of electronic waste is disposed in an environmentally friendly way. To ensure the implementation of SDG 12, it is necessary, to increase the volume of environmental recycling of e-waste by 10 times by 2030.

A survey of some 4,000 companies conducted by the UN in 2020 found that only 40% of companies report about the sustainability measures, while most companies submit only brief reports.

The 2021 UN report on the SDGs assesses the global progress in ensuring the transition to sustainable consumption and production patterns (SDG 12) by progress towards two targets (1) reduce the domestic material consumption per unit of GDP and (2) rationalize inefficient fossil fuel subsidies per unit of GDP⁵⁹. Although there is moderate distance to both targets, UN assessment notes that, so far there has been little or no progress in achieving them.

CIS Progress

The Economic Development Strategy of the CIS until 2030 does not directly address the issue of the transition to rational consumption and production patterns. However, it provides for a number of measures that will ultimately allow the formation of rational models of production and consumption.

First of all, the Strategy provides for the transition to a new quality of socio-economic development on the basis of technological modernization, increasing labor productivity, restructuring of the national economies,⁶⁰ which is the basis for rational production and consumption.

⁵⁹ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/progress-chart-2021.pdf>

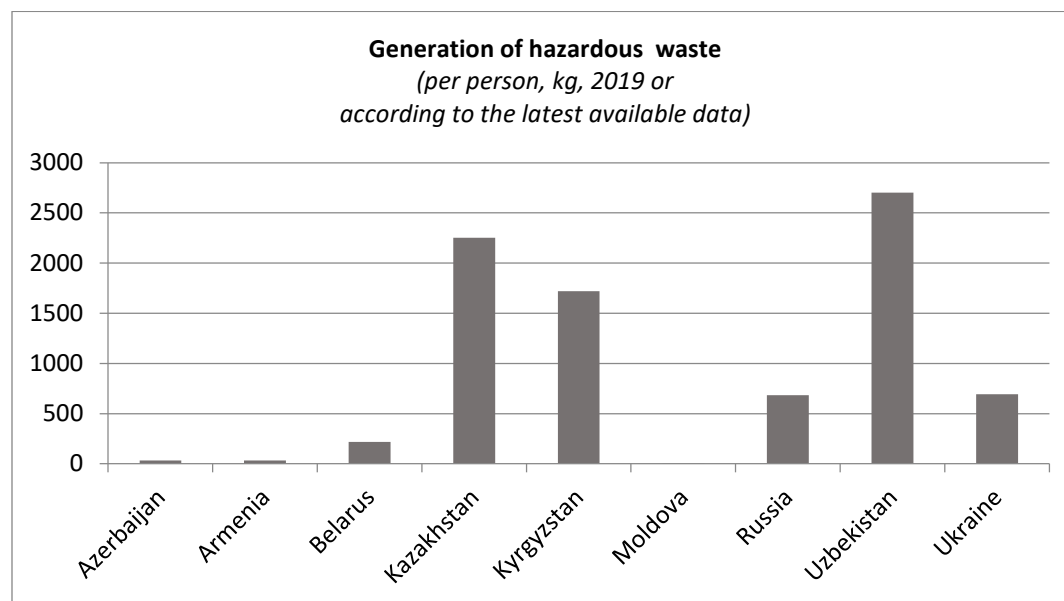
⁶⁰ <http://cis.minsk.by/reestr/ru/index.html#reestr/view/text?doc=6229>

In addition, the achievement of rational production and consumption will be influenced by the expansion of cooperation on resource and energy saving, within the framework of which it is envisaged to replace natural raw materials, in particular mineral, with secondary resources, the creation of new types of materials - replaced by natural analogues; reduction of losses of natural raw materials at all stages of their processing and use; increasing the use of waste at all stages of production; etc.

The CIS countries are creating economic mechanisms of nature management and protection of the natural environment, the formation of a market for environmental services, which will also allow rationalizing production and consumption. The introduction of a system of environmental labeling of goods and food products is also envisaged, which will create conditions for the rationalization of consumption.

One of the indicators characterizing the movement towards rationalization of production and consumption is the formation of hazardous waste per capita by the population in kg. In 2019, the generation of hazardous waste per capita (in kg) in the CIS countries was uneven (see figure 26).

Figure 25 Hazardous Waste Generation per Capita, kg (2019 or latest available data)



Source: data from the CIS Statistical Committee.

Despite some differences in the methods of calculating this indicator, the available data provides a picture of waste generation. The dynamics of their generation during the period from 2017 was multi-directional - in some countries, for example, in the Republic of Azerbaijan the

waste generation was decreasing, in some countries the generation, to the contrary, showed growth (for example, in the Republic of Uzbekistan). Waste volumes in 2019 ranged from 1.6 kg per capita (in the Republic of Moldova) to 2703 kg per capita (in the Republic of Uzbekistan).

Challenges to Address

The implementation of actions aimed at rationalization of production and consumption patterns in the CIS countries will continue. Responsible procurement practices can be a significant incentive for the rationalization of production. This, inter alia, should be aimed at focusing public procurement at environmentally friendly, energy-efficient products. This, in turn, requires the implementation of legal and legislative norms that stimulate their production and encourage their application.

The inclusion of production rationalization objectives in business social responsibility strategies can also be a serious lever to accelerate the achievement of SDG 12.

Finally, information campaigns aimed at the formation of rational consumer behavior of the population are needed.

GOAL 13. CLIMATE ACTION.

World Trend

According to the UN, the climate crisis in the world is on-going. In 2020, the concentration of major greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has increased, and the average global temperature was about 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels, that is dangerously close to the 1.5°C limit set in the Paris Agreement.⁶¹

To meet the Paris Agreement target by 2030, global emissions need to be reduced to 45% of 2010 levels. In 2019, developed countries' emissions were about 6.2% lower than in 2010, while emissions from 70 developing countries have increased by 14.4% compared to 2014.

Countries are actively developing and implementing national climate strategies and plans. Climate change activities spending has increased by 10% in 2017-2018 compared to 2015-2016 and reached an average of 48.7 billion USD per year.

⁶¹ https://unfccc.int/files/meetings/paris_nov_2015/application/pdf/paris_agreement_russian_.pdf

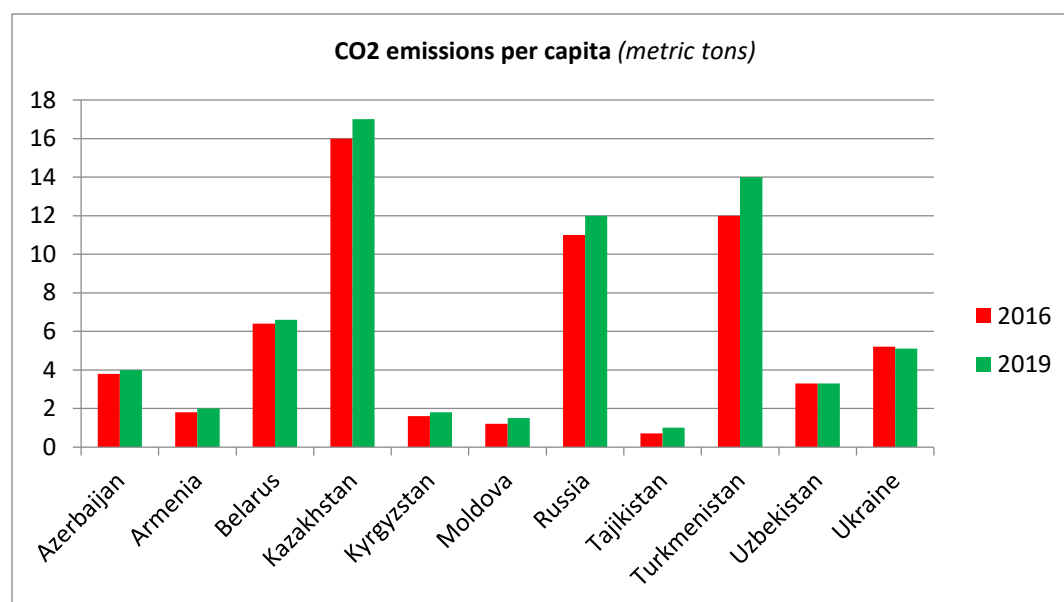
In the UN report on the SDGs 2021, the world progress in taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (SDG 13) is assessed by the progress towards achievement of one target (1) to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions⁶². It is noted that the target is far away from completion and there is a deterioration in the situation.

CIS Progress

The CIS countries are concerned about the climate change. The concern was expressed inter alia, in the speeches of the Leaders of Turkmenistan, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan at the 76th session of the UN General Assembly.⁶³

Countries are taking actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the energy efficiency of national economies. Despite the measures taken, emissions of carbon dioxide in the CIS countries have remained fairly stable, and in some countries have shown some growth (see figure 27).

Figure 26 Carbon Dioxide Emissions, tons per capita



Source: <http://globalcarbonatlas.org/ru/CO2-emissions>

Unfortunately, the lack of statistical data does not allow to more substantially present the situation in the CIS countries in terms of climate change.

⁶² <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/progress-chart-2021.pdf>

⁶³ https://e-cis.info/news/566/94881/?sphrase_id=23603 Turkmenistan
https://e-cis.info/news/566/94881/?sphrase_id=23603h
https://e-cis.info/news/566/94827/?sphrase_id=23603

Challenges to Address

To prevent the threat of climate change and keep progressing global warming within 1.5 °C will require CIS countries to consider accelerating the transition to clean energy. This requires the development of partnerships both in scientific research and in the introduction of new technologies.

In addition to this challenge, there is a need to increase the promotion of access to energy and to continue the movement towards the eradication of energy poverty.

In implementing SDG 13, because of its complex nature, it is necessary to align long-term objectives with short- and medium-term objectives. Not only do the CIS countries need to deal with the effects of climate change, but they also need to adapt to it, and the balance of these measures must be appropriate to the national situation in each country.

The decreasing of methane emissions contributes significantly to the climate change, and may be one of the fastest, most feasible and most cost-effective ways to limit climate change. Therefore, the attention of the CIS countries to this issue can accelerate the solution of the common challenge of combatting climate change.

Increased investment in low-emission and innovative environmentally friendly technological solutions, including those developed as a result of cooperation between the public and private sectors, can also be a tool for addressing the negative effects of climate change.

GOAL 14. LIFE BELOW WATER

World Trend

According to the UN, the ocean is a source of livelihood for more than 3 billion people and more than 80% of the volume of world's goods are transported by sea.

However, the preservation of the possibility of using the resources of the oceans is threatened by a serious danger. First of all, it is the warming of the ocean, a sharp reduction in fish stocks, and plastics that pollutes the marine environment. The number of dead zones on the

planet has grown from 400 in 2008 to 700 in 2019⁶⁴. At the same time, more than half of the marine key biodiversity areas are not protected in any way.

About half of the world's countries have adopted specific initiatives to support small-scale fisheries, but for research in ocean science countries allocate on average only 1.2% of national research budgets.

The 2021 UN SDG Report assesses the global progress in conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources (SDG 14) by the progress towards two targets (1) increase the proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels (2) increase the coverage of protected areas in relation to marine Key Biodiversity Areas⁶⁵. According to UN experts, limited progress has been made in achieving the targets, but acceleration is necessary to achieve them. At the same time, the (1) target is still far away, and the (2) target is a moderate distance away.

CIS Progress

The task of increasing the efficiency of production of fish products and aquaculture on the basis of cooperation between the CIS countries and the use of modern technologies in this area is among the priorities of cooperation between the CIS countries.

Joint investment projects are being implemented in the field of fish feed production, for which dependence on imports from third countries remains. The issues of training specialists in the field of fish farming and the development of scientific and technical cooperation of fisheries institutes are being resolved. The development of a single environmental standard for the production of aquaculture products, as well as the unification of approaches to the regulatory and methodological support of the fisheries industry are being worked out.

The CIS countries note that modern challenges related to the environmental agenda, which are now manifested in the field of fisheries, will be relevant for fish farming in the near future. This is due to the fact that fish farming is actively developing: the number of water bodies involved in this type of activity is increasing, and with an increase in production volumes, the environmental burden on water bodies increases.

⁶⁴ Dead zones - are water areas in which there is not enough oxygen to support marine life.

⁶⁵ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/progress-chart-2021.pdf>

The production of fish products in the CIS countries (see Table 5) varies quite a lot among the CIS countries. At the same time, in three countries it has decreased since 2016, and in other countries it has increased. The Russian Federation is the leader in terms of production volumes, the least of all fish is produced in the Republic of Tajikistan.

Table 5 Production of Fish Products (catch and cultivation), metric tons

Country	2016	2019	Country	2016	2019
Republic of Azerbaijan	1.4	2.1	The Russian Federation	4951.1	5329.7
Republic of Armenia	20.1	17.3	Republic of Tajikistan	1.5	1.6
Republic of Belarus	11.9	12.4	Turkmenistan	15.1	15.1
Republic of Kazakhstan	43.2	33.6	Republic of Uzbekistan	65.3	90.98
Republic of Kyrgyzstan	2	2.6	Ukraine	97.2	94.8
Republic of Moldova	12.1	12.6			

Source: World Bank data.

Challenges to Address

In the light of the vital role of the world's oceans, seas and bodies of water in ensuring the livelihood of the world's population, the CIS countries will continue taking action to conserve, protect and restore marine resources and conduct research and development in this area. The CIS countries will continue to fight for the conservation of aquatic biodiversity and the cessation of illegal fishing. Measures will continue to be taken to reduce pollution of the seas and oceans as a result of the dumping of plastic waste.

GOAL 15. LIFE ON LAND

World Trend

The UN estimates that the world has not reached its 2020 targets to end biodiversity loss. The share of forests has decreased from 31.9% of the total land area in 2000 to 31.2% in 2020 or almost by 100 million hectares. The risk of extinction of biological species over the past thirty

years has increased by about 10%. The Red Book Index⁶⁶ fell from 0.81 in 1993 to 0.73 in 2021. Endangered are 14% of birds, 26% of mammals, 33% of corals that form reefs, 34% of conifers, 41% of amphibians. In total, of its more than 134400 species of animals and plants, 37499 species are endangered. Over the past five years, progress in the conservation of key biodiversity areas has slowed. In 2021, the average share of key biodiversity areas in the world covered by the protected areas was 43% of terrestrial areas, 42% of freshwater areas, 41% of mountain areas.

The 2021 UN SDG Report assesses the global progress in protecting and restoring terrestrial ecosystems and promoting their sustainable use, sustainable forest management, combating desertification, halting and reversing land degradation and halting the loss of biological diversity (SDG 15) by progress towards achieving two targets (1) by 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and (2) by 2020, protect and prevent extinction of threatened species. While both targets are in a moderate distance from completion, limited progress has been made on the conservation and use of terrestrial ecosystems, and the progress towards the (2) target is deteriorating.

CIS Progress

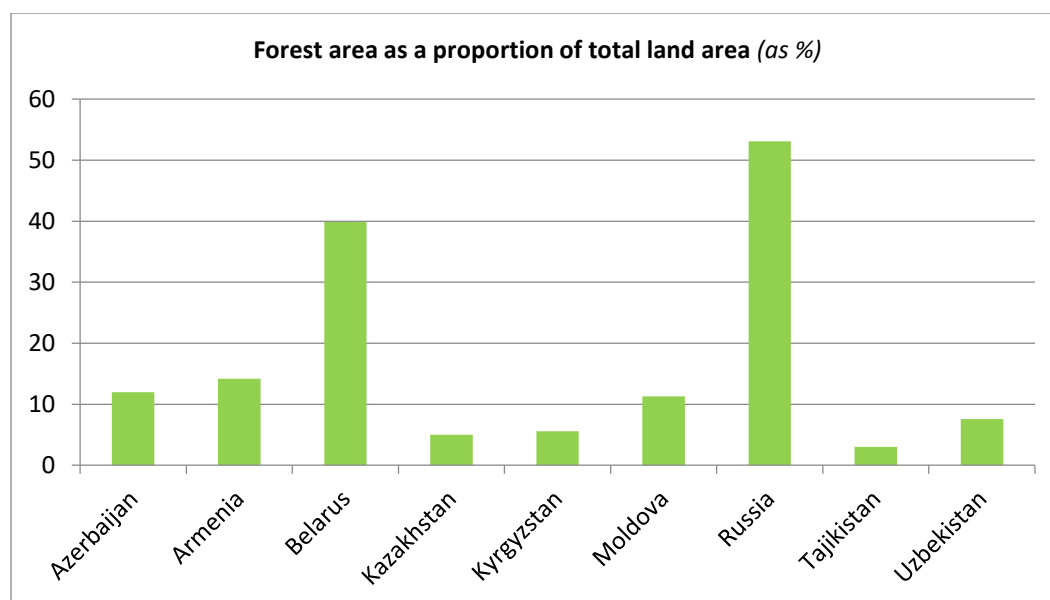
Protecting and restoring terrestrial ecosystems and promoting their rational use, sustainable forest management, combating desertification, halting and reversing land degradation and halting the loss of biological diversity are of concern to the CIS countries. In the Economic Development Strategy of the CIS for the period up to 2030, it is noted that the forestry policy will be aimed at developing cooperation in the conservation of forest biological diversity; improving the culture of forest management; training specialists in the relevant field; preventing illegal logging and illegal trafficking in wood; prevention and liquidation of emergency situations in forests, including forest fires; elimination of foci of pests and diseases of forests.⁶⁷

The area of forests in the CIS countries is shown in Figure 28.

Figure 27 Forest Area as a Percentage of Total Land Area

⁶⁶ The Index of the Red Book varies from 0 to 1 at the same time - 1 means no risk of extinction, and 0 - complete disappearance.

⁶⁷ <http://cis.minsk.by/reestr/ru/index.html#reestr/view/text?doc=6229>



Source: data from the CIS Statistical Committee.

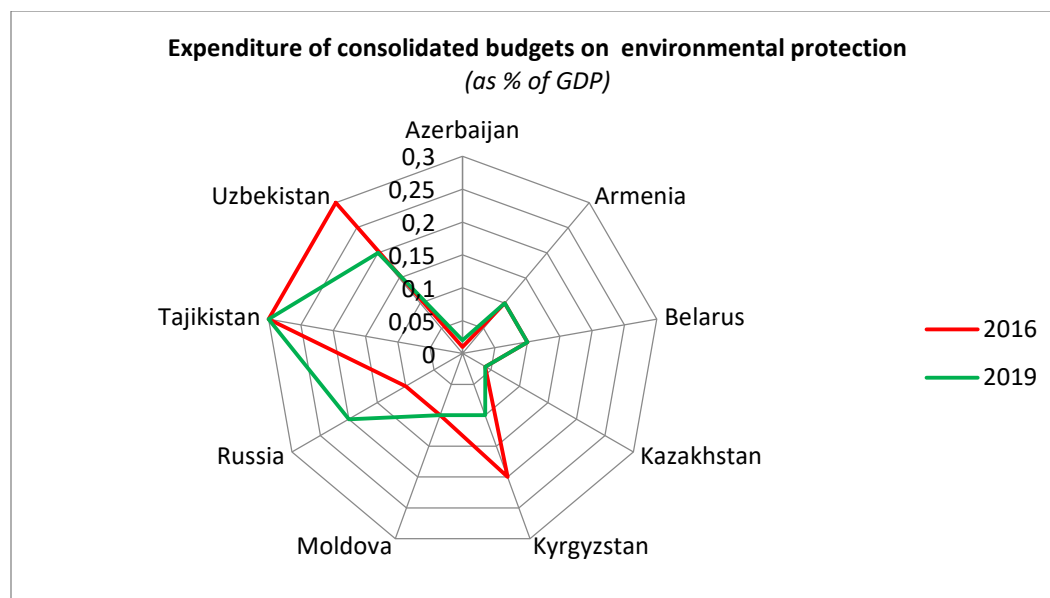
As a result of countries' efforts to improve forest management, the area of forests has not decreased significantly since 2016 and has generally demonstrated stability.

Back in 1998, the CIS countries signed an Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Timber Industry and Forestry and established the Intergovernmental Council on Timber Industry and Forestry,⁶⁸ which, inter alia, is engaged in the development of legal, administrative, socio-economic aspects of sustainable forest management, conservation and reproduction of forest resources, with the creation of conditions that ensure continuous, non-depleting and sustainable forest management and the development of mutually agreed approaches to meeting the challenges of environmental protection within its competence, taking into account the current world practice.

Environmental spending since 2015 in most CIS countries has retained its share of the GDP of countries with the exception of two countries, where it has declined and the Russian Federation, where it has increased (see Figure 29).

Figure 28 Expenditures of Consolidated Budgets on Environmental Protection (in % of GDP)

⁶⁸ <https://e-cis.info/cooperation/2901/83360/>



Source: data from the CIS Statistical Committee.

Challenges to Address

Recognizing the diverse functions performed by trees, such as soil erosion control, water conservation, wildlife protection and carbon storage and sinks, the CIS countries will continue to work on forest conservation and restoration, soil conservation and restoration, and biodiversity conservation. To improve the effectiveness of meeting these challenges, CIS countries will continue training personnel for relevant industries, harmonization of regulatory and legislative decisions.

The cross-sectoral nature of the tasks requires coordination of efforts not only at the international but also at the national level. Involvement of the expert community in addressing these issues will also improve the quality of decisions made.

Finally, it is necessary to address the issues of monitoring and collecting statistical information that allows making more accurate assessments of both the situation and the prospects for its changes.

GOAL 16. PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

World Trend

According to the UN⁶⁹, the number of armed conflicts in the world remains significant. As a result, as of the end of 2019, 79.5 million people, or 1% of the world's population, had been forcibly displaced worldwide.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed inequality and discrimination and weakened, and in some cases destroyed, national human rights protection systems.

The world's fatal violence rates are gradually declining, and the number of homicides has dropped from 6 victims per 100,000 people in 2015 to 5.7 victims per 100,000 people.

In 2018, approximately 5 out of 10 identified victims of human trafficking worldwide were women and 2 out of 10 were girls, with about a third of all identified victims being children. About 50 per cent of the identified victims were trafficked for sexual exploitation and 38 per cent for forced labor.

From 2000 to 2019, the number of persons in prison without sentencing for a crime practically did not decrease and amounted to about 31% of the total number of prisoners.

Between 2011 and 2020, the average prevalence of bribery in low-income countries was 37.6%, compared with 7.2% in high-income countries. Between 2006 and 2020, nearly one in six businesses in the world faced extortion of bribes from government officials.

The 2021 UN report on the SDGs assesses the global progress towards promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, ensuring access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and participatory institutions at all levels (SDG 16) by the progress towards three targets to (1) significantly reduce homicide rates, (2) reduce the proportion of unsentenced detainees and (3) increase the proportion of countries with independent

⁶⁹ The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021, available at: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021>

national human rights institutions in compliance with Paris Principles.⁷⁰ It is noted that the (1) and (2) targets are still far from achievement. For the (1) target, there is limited progress in the dynamics of its achievement, and for the (2) target there is a deterioration of the situation. Finally, for the (3) target, the situation looks better – there is moderate distance to achieving this target and fair progress has been made, but it still needs acceleration.

CIS Progress

In the CIS countries, serious attention has been given to promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, ensuring access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and participatory institutions at all levels. The Commission on Social Policy and Human Rights of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS countries is working⁷¹. In December 2020, the Council of Heads of States of the CIS has adopted the Concept for the Further Development of the CIS⁷², in which the priorities of cooperation include combating crime, maintaining and strengthening international security and stability, countering new challenges and threats.

The Concept notes that cooperation between the CIS countries in these areas remains one of the most important topics of interaction. The CIS countries intend to further intensify joint efforts in the field of combating terrorism, extremism, cross-border crime, including illicit trafficking of weapons, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, their precursors, in combating corruption, legalization (laundering) of proceeds from crime, financing of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, trafficking of persons and human organs, as well as in the field of ensuring international information security and countering crimes in the field of information and communication technologies, economics and finance, in ensuring the security of state borders.

In order to ensure access to justice for all, the CIS countries cooperate in the areas of criminal justice, including in the provision of legal assistance in criminal cases.

⁷⁰ The Paris Principles are a set of international standards that shape and guide the work of national human rights institutions. Compiled at an international seminar of national human rights institutions in Paris in 1991, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1993.

⁷¹ https://e-cis.info/news/564/91871/?sphrase_id=23657

⁷² Concept of further development of the Commonwealth He-dependent IStates
<http://cis.minsk.by/reestr/ru/index.html#reestr/view/text?doc=6363>

The CIS countries are strengthening military and military-technical cooperation aimed at ensuring peace and security, maintaining international stability, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, strengthening international and national export control systems.

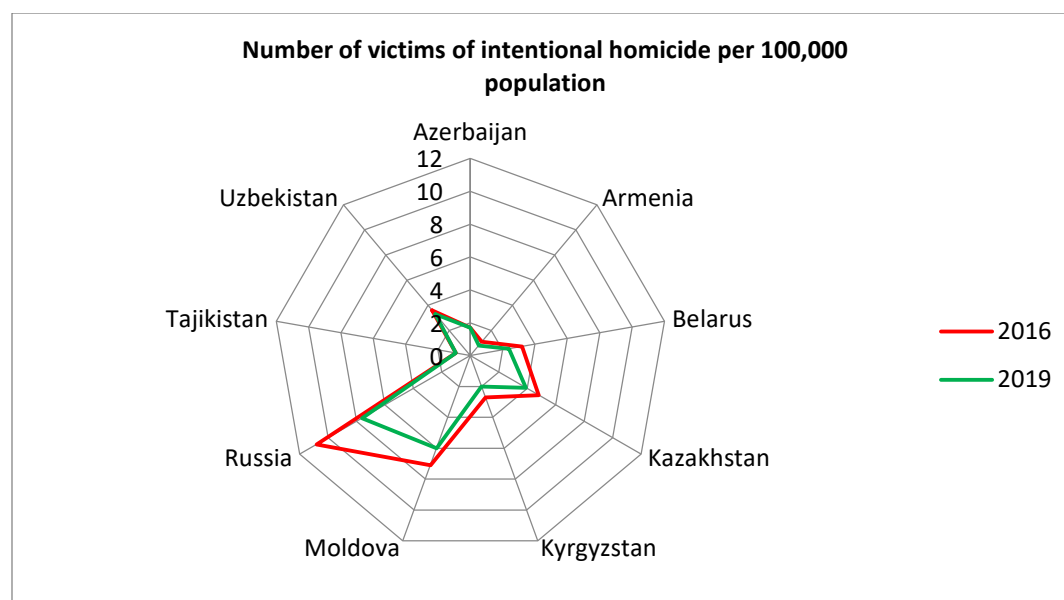
Particular attention is paid to countering terrorism.

Institutions and opportunities of civil society, business, mass media and traditional religious confessions are developing. Their role in ensuring the realization of human rights and combating terrorism is growing.

Information campaigns are being conducted to raise public awareness, strengthen a culture of peace, practice inter-cultural dialogue, tolerance in national and religious issues.

The active comprehensive measures taken at the national levels by the CIS countries resulted, inter alia, in a decrease in the number of intentional homicides per 100,000 people in almost all CIS countries (see Figure 30).

Figure 29 Number of Intentional Homicide Victims (per100,000 people)



Source: data from the CIS Statistical Committee.

Unfortunately, the analysis of the status of implementation of SDG 16 in the CIS countries is hampered by the lack of relevant opened official statistics at the interstate level, and the materials of voluntary reviews of the implementation of the SDGs, although prepared according to a common methodology, do not always provide statistical data confirming the effectiveness of countries' actions to achieve SDG 16.

Challenges to Address

The implementation of SDG 16 in the CIS countries will continue in all directions. The fight against corruption will remain an essential part of cooperation within the CIS, with due regard to the Political Declaration of the first ever Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Combating Corruption. Attention will be paid to different forms of corruption in different fields of activity - in response to emergencies, corruption associated with organized crime, etc. Work will continue to improve the measurement of corruption and develop more reliable indicators.

There is also a need to further develop cooperation in the adoption and implementation of mechanisms to ensure that adequate, accurate and timely information on beneficial owners of companies and real estate is provided to the competent authorities.

Within the implementation of SDG 16 special attention will be paid to strengthening of the role of civil society and non-governmental organizations of the CIS countries in addressing the issues of human rights, ensuring peace and stability.

Forums for communication and interaction on key areas and issues of the CIS activities related to SDG 16 are of great importance. Representatives of public organizations, youth associations, the media, academia, creative intelligentsia, business, local self-government and citizens participation in such forums allow to accelerate the progress towards, SDG 16.

GOAL 17. PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS.

World Trend

The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development is one of the mechanisms that ensure the functioning of the world economy as a coherent system.

According to the UN experts, the global COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the state of multilateral and global partnerships, which even before the pandemic faced problems of shortages of funds, trade tensions, technological obstacles and a lack of data necessary for the decision-making. In addition, as a result of the pandemic, foreign direct investment (FDI) has fallen by 40% – from 1.5 trillion USD per year in 2019 to 1 trillion USD in 2020. The budget space of countries is shrinking, there is an increase in debt obligations, which further reduces the ability of individual countries to accelerate post-Covid economic recovery.

According to the UN, though net volume of official development assistance (ODA) rose to 161 billion USD in 2020. which is about 0,32% of the gross national income (GNI) of donor countries, this is not enough to respond to the pandemic and meet the 0.7% of the GNI target. Volume of money transfers to low- and middle-income countries have reached 540 billion. USD in 2020 that is 1,6% below 2019 levels. Almost half of the world population - 3.7 billion people do not have access to the Internet in spite of the fact that the need for it has become particularly relevant in the context of the pandemic. Additional financing of activities in the field of data and statistics is needed in 63% low-income and lower-middle-income countries.

The 2021 UN SDG Report assesses the world progress in strengthening the means of implementation and revitalization of the global partnership for sustainable development (SDG 17) by the progress of achievement of three targets (1) ensure full implementation of the net official development assistance disbursements by donor countries, (2) enhance access to technology by increasing internet use, (3) increase proportion of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded. It is noted that on the (1) target, although it is still far away, fair progress has been made, and the (2) and (3) targets, on the contrary, are not far from the implementation, but at the same time substantial progress has been made on the second, and limited on the third.

CIS Progress

The CIS countries differ by the level of social and economic development and the role that each country plays in the global partnership for development. The Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation are classified as countries providing development assistance according to the OECD criteria. The remaining CIS countries are among the recipients of assistance. At the same time, the number of recipients of assistance also includes the Republic of Azerbaijan, as it not only provides, but also receives assistance.

According to the OECD, the volume of assistance provided by these three countries in 2019 amounted to 1 billion 260 million USD (see table 6) ⁷³.

Table 6 Official Development Assistance from the CIS Countries (millions of US dollars, in comparable prices in 2019)

	2017		2018		2019		
	Total	including bilateral	Total	including bilateral	Total	including bilateral	% Bilateral

⁷³ <http://www.oecd.org/dac/development-cooperation-report/#profiles/>

Republic of Azerbaijan	19,24	5,48	27,82	5,24	25,95	6,42	24,7
Republic of Kazakhstan	36,08	24,09	39,58	29,03	34,21	26,73	78,1
The Russian Federation	1239,47	764,53	1007,15	633,23	1227,39	692,89	56,5
Total	1294,79	794,1	1074,55	667,5	1287,55	726,04	56,4

Source: OECD database.

Assistance was provided both on a multilateral basis through international organizations and on the basis of bilateral treaties. One of the priorities for donor countries was to provide assistance to neighboring countries, including the CIS countries. In the aid structure, most of it was focused on the manufacturing and social sectors, as well as on humanitarian assistance in response to natural disasters.

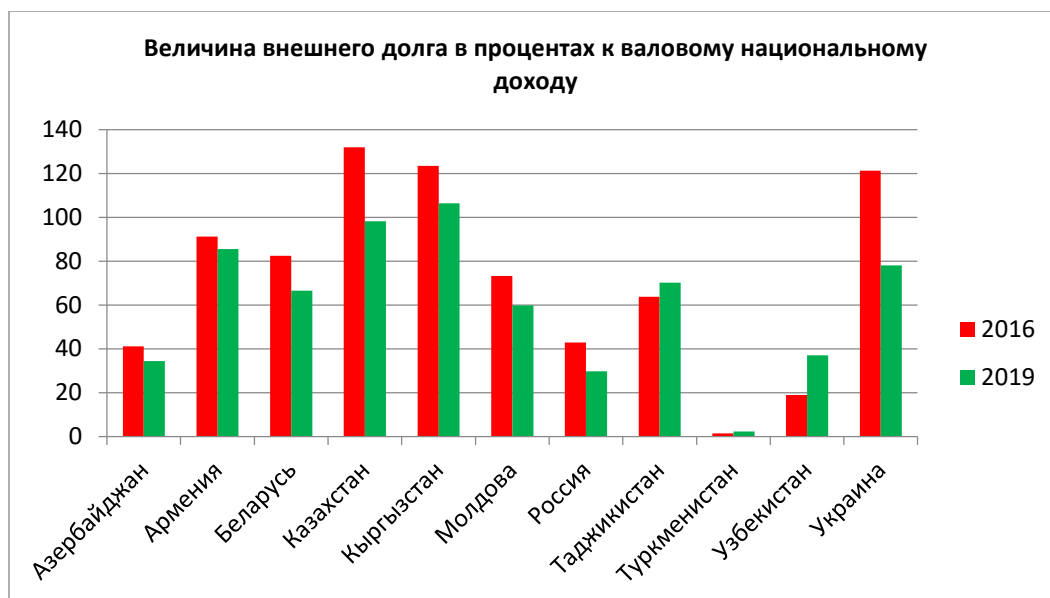
Taking into account that the volumes of bilateral assistance provided by the Republic of Azerbaijan are relatively small, the number of countries it covers is limited.: In 2019, about 2 million USD was sent to the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. About 0.5 million USD to Albania and about 0.5 million USD Iran. Small amounts of aid were also being sent to Burundi and Yemen.

The assistance provided by the Republic of Kazakhstan covers a larger number of countries. In 2019, Republic of Tajikistan was the recipient of the most significant amount of the Republic of Kazakhstan's assistance (1.73 million USD). About 210 thousand USD received Afghanistan and about 140,000 USD the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. The rest of the assistance volume was distributed among the countries of the European, Asian and African regions (the Republic of Belarus, Turkey, Ukraine, Egypt, Mongolia, Vietnam).

The Russian Federation's aid is directed mainly to Cuba (more than 350million USD), the Republic of Kyrgyzstan (about 100 million USD). and the North Korea (about 73 million USD). The remaining aid volume is distributed to a number of countries in the European, African, Asian and Latin American regions.

In most CIS countries, since 2016, the revenues of national consolidated budgets were formed mainly out of domestic taxes. The share of tax revenues ranged from 48.2 in the Republic of Azerbaijan to 92.6 in the Republic of Belarus. The amount of external debt in the period from 2016 mainly decreased. The exception was two countries - the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan (see Figure 31).

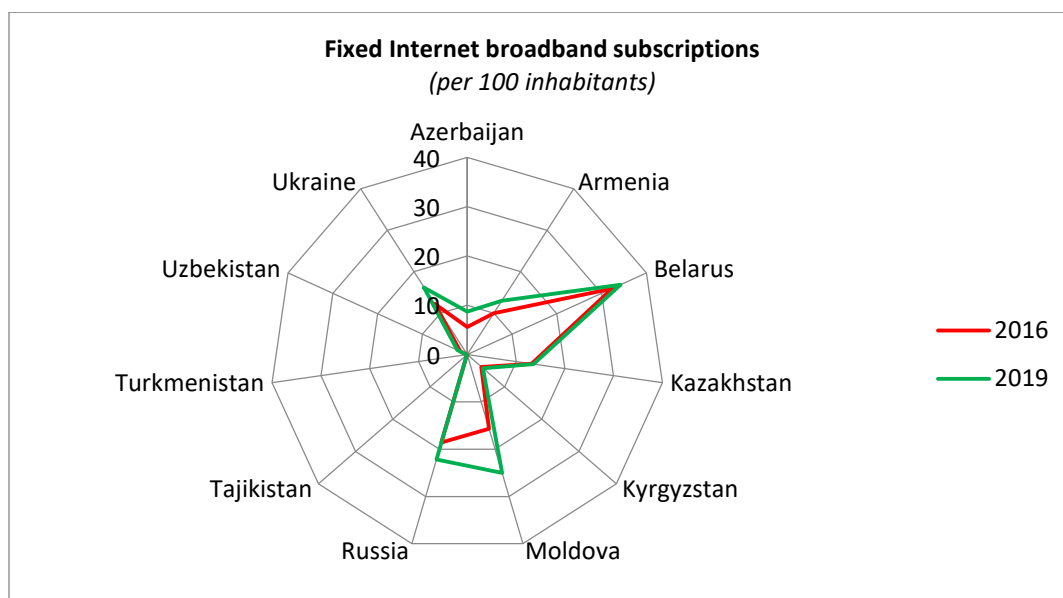
Figure 30 Amount of External Debt (as a percentage of GNI)



Source: data from the CIS Statistical Committee.

The provision of the population with access to broadband Internet in the CIS countries remains uneven. While it is growing in ten CIS countries, it remains at a consistently low level in the Republic of Tajikistan. (See figure 32).

Figure 31 Number of Fixed Broadband Internet Access Subscribers (per 100 population)



Source: data from the CIS Statistical Committee.

Challenges to Address

The increased participation of the CIS countries in the global partnerships for development makes it necessary to pay special attention to the questions: - “Who, to whom, and why should provide aid?”: The content, volume and effectiveness of aid, the balance between the interests of donor and recipient countries remain important issues for consideration; answering the question of why some countries are "darlings" while others are "orphans" despite the fact that both need development support; how to determine the degree of the country 's aid need , how long the country can simultaneously receive international aid and be a donor country – these and many other questions still need answers..

The practical aid provision actions, depend on the answers to the above listed questions and the CIS countries will continue focusing on obtaining most relevant answers.

In addition, the analysis of a complex phenomenon such as development assistance, which covers not only in the economic but also the political spheres, requires significant data sets. For a number of reasons, the available data on the provision of development assistance are not always open and, in some cases, there are doubts about their reliability. In this regard, it is necessary to develop methods and approaches that allow to form policies for the provision of international development assistance in the context of incomplete data.

The development of common approaches of the CIS countries to development assistance can also play a positive role.

CONCLUSION

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the UN member states in 2015, set global development objectives until 2030, continuing the work that begun in 2000 with the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Each of the 17 goals sets the targets aimed at solving a complex problem that determines the economic development and quality of life of the world's population. The scale of the challenges that need to be resolved for the implementation of each SDG, the interconnection and interdependence of these challenges, the interconnection and interdependence of all 17 SDGs, make the analysis of the progress of their achievement a difficult multifactorial, multicomponent and multi-vector experience. Each SDG

is divided into a significant number of targets, using different sets of indicators to track the development trend and progress in their achievement.

Countries of the world submit voluntary reviews of the situation and progress towards the SDGs to the UN, and the UN Economic and Social Council annually publishes reports on progress towards the SDGs, based on information obtained from voluntary reviews. A database of indicators characterizing the achievement of the SDGs is also maintained.

In addition, teams of experts are engaged in assessing the progress of achieving the SDGs, who offer methods of assessing the effectiveness of measures taken to achieve the SDGs, and offer assessments of the situation, trends, prospects for achieving the SDGs.

This report summarizes available approaches, information materials and statistics on progress towards the SDGs in the CIS region. As a result of the review analysis of both the policies of different CIS countries and the CIS as a whole in terms of achieving the SDGs, the following conclusions can be drawn.

The CIS countries, attributed by UN statistics to different regions of the world, nevertheless represent a group of countries united not only by a common past coexistence within the former USSR, but also by common borders and common interests and goals. The CIS interstate association, which is thirty years old, has become a mechanism for cooperation between sovereign states, ensuring their coordinated development in the interests of the peoples living in them. Analysis of the progress of these countries in achieving the SDGs allows us to go beyond the regional approach used by the UN and trace how the politics, culture and economy of countries representing different regions of the world, and their interaction with neighboring countries influence the achievement of the SDGs.

Countries include measures aimed at implementing the SDGs in their national strategic documents and plans, which guarantee both their implementation and monitoring of their implementation. Countries have identified lead executors (ministries) or coordinating bodies (councils, commissions, committees), which, in cooperation with all interested participants, carry out the development of SDGs. Taking into account the complex nature and interconnectedness of all the SDGs, countries are actively implementing campaigns of active involvement of the entire government and interaction with social partners (business and workers representatives), as well as with a wide range of non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations. It is this approach that allows us to ensure inclusive growth and ensure that no group of the

population is out of sight of policies aimed at the development and well-being of the population. Another modern concept that is reflected in the process of implementing the SDGs in the CIS countries is the concept of- "human-centered development", which assumes that modern technologies, artificial intelligence, robotization. will not lead to the replacement of a person in the labor market by a robot, but will open up new opportunities for full and decent employment.

The CIS countries not only implement the SDGs at the national level, but also are actively engaged in their implementation at the level of the entire interstate association within the framework of their interaction. The strategic documents adopted at the CIS level largely correspond to the SDGs, which makes it possible to state that the interaction of countries and the development of integration processes, the exchange of experience and consolidation of SDGs achievement efforts within the CIS region. and the implementation of joint projects produce positive results. The UN Secretary-General speaking at an event dedicated to the SDGs in September 2021, emphasized the importance of working together and uniting efforts in achieving the SDGs.⁷⁴

As the global COVID-19 pandemic continues, progress towards the world's SDGs has slowed, and on individual SDGs, it is possible that the situation has even worsened.

The progress made in achieving the SDGs in the CIS region, visible through statistics from the national statistical services of the CIS member states, does not reflect COVID-19-related changes due to the fact that some of the relevant statistics will be available in a year. However, an analysis of the available information showed that within the CIS, different countries show different successes in their progress towards achieving the SDGs as a whole. the progress of the CIS countries is different on different SDGs, which is largely determined by the national priorities and priorities of the CIS policy as a whole.

The progress to some SDGs in the CIS countries looks better than the world average. These SDGs include, for example, SDG 1- "Eradicate poverty in all its forms" and SDG 4 – "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all".

Despite such differences, it can be stated that all CIS countries are committed to ensuring the sustainability of people-centered development.

⁷⁴ <https://www.un.org/sg/en/node/259343>

Last but not least conclusion is that statistics are very important for both -understanding the situation and assessing progress. Understanding the situation and assessing progress require not only the availability of data, indicators, tables and figures. It is important to have an idea of the relationship between different phenomena and their reflections in human behavior. Behavioral insights will ensure the implementation of the most important principles of inclusiveness and human-centered development and create conditions for shared well-being and prosperity.

ANNEX 1

Expert assessment of the situation and trend in the SDG's achievement by the CIS countries

The report on the SDGs 2021, prepared by a group of well-known experts led by Jeffrey Sachs⁷⁵, provides a review of the implementation of the SDGs in different countries of the world, including in the CIS countries. The assessment is made on the basis of an analysis of deviations from the indicators of SDG implementation. while the threshold intervals of deviations indicating different progress in implementation and differences in the situation were determined by experts for each of the SDGs.

SDG 1 Eradicate poverty in all its forms everywhere

The report prepared by the group of experts provides the following assessment of the situation in the CIS countries with regard to poverty eradication (see Table 7).

Table 7 Assessment of the Level and Trend of Achieving SDG 1 in the CIS Countries

	Level	Country	Trend	Country
1	Goal achieved or nearly achieved	Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Belarus Republic of Kazakhstan Republic of Moldova the Russian Federation Ukraine	Progress is developing at a sufficient pace	Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Armenia Republic of Belarus Republic of Kazakhstan Republic of Moldova the Russian Federation Republic of Uzbekistan Ukraine

⁷⁵ Sachs J.D., Kroll C., Lafortune G., Fuller G, Woelm F. Sustainable Development Report 2021. Includes the SDG Index and Dashboards. The Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals. Cambridge University Press. P. 518. DOI 10.1017/97810091065

2	Some outstanding issues remain	Republic of Armenia Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Tajikistan	Moderate progress	Republic of Kyrgyzstan Turkmenistan
3	Significant challenges remain	Republic of Uzbekistan	Lack of progress	
4	Global challenges remain	Turkmenistan	Deterioration of the situation	

Source: Based on the Sustainable Development Report 2021, Cambridge

As can be seen from the table, in most CIS countries, SDG 1 is assessed as achieved or there are still minor challenges in achieving it. Only one country still has major global challenges to meet SDG 1. In general, the conclusion of the experts coincides with the estimates that follow from the analysis of official statistics of the CIS countries.

SDG 2 End hunger, ensure food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
An experts' review of progress towards SDG 2 is presented in Table 8.

Table 8 Assessment of the Level and Trend of Achieving SDG 2 in the CIS Countries

	Level	Country	Trend	Country
1	Goal achieved or nearly achieved		Progress is developing at a sufficient pace	
2	Some outstanding issues remain		Moderate progress	Republic of Belarus Ukraine
3	Significant challenges remain	Republic of Armenia Republic of Azerbaijan Republic of Belarus Republic of Kyrgyzstan Republic of Moldova the Russian Federation Republic of Uzbekistan Ukraine	Lack of progress	Republic of Armenia Republic of Azerbaijan Republic of Kazakhstan Republic of Kyrgyzstan Republic of Moldova the Russian Federation Republic of Tajikistan Turkmenistan Republic of Uzbekistan
4	Global challenges remain	Republic of Kazakhstan Republic of Tajikistan Turkmenistan	Deterioration of the situation	

Source: Based on the Sustainable Development Report 2021, Cambridge

As can be seen from Table 8, experts are restrained in assessing the implementation of SDG 2 by the CIS countries, saying that only two out of 11 countries have made moderate progress, while the situation in other countries does not change. Perhaps, this situation is due to the fact that initially the CIS countries did not experience critical problems with food, they paid and continue paying attention to this issue. The problems that remain in the CIS countries,

according to the experts' assessment, are not disclosed in their report, but it can be assumed that they are related to climate change, the increased natural disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to disruptions in the supply of goods, including food. There also may be other factors.

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

An experts' review of progress towards SDG 3 is presented in Table 9.

Table 9 Assessment of the Level and Trend of Achieving SDG 3 in the CIS Countries

	Level	Country	Trend	Country
1	Goal achieved or nearly achieved		Progress is developing at a sufficient pace	Republic of Belarus Republic of Kazakhstan Republic of Kyrgyzstan
2	Some outstanding issues remain		Moderate progress	Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Armenia Republic of Moldova the Russian Federation Republic of Tajikistan Turkmenistan Republic of Uzbekistan Ukraine
3	Significant challenges remain	Republic of Azerbaijan Republic of Armenia Republic of Belarus Republic of Kazakhstan Republic of Kyrgyzstan Republic of Moldova The Russian Federation Republic of Uzbekistan Ukraine	Lack of progress	
4	Global challenges remain	Republic of Tajikistan Turkmenistan	Deterioration of the situation	

Source: Based on the Sustainable Development Report 2021, Cambridge

As can be seen from table 9, experts noted three countries that are achieving sufficient pace to achieve SDG 3, while all other countries are showing moderate progress that may not be sufficient to achieve the targets within the target time frame. In almost all countries, there remain significant challenges to be addressed.

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

An expert assessment of progress towards SDG 4 is presented in table 10.

Table 110 Assessment of the Level and Trend of Achieving SDG 4 in the CIS Countries

	Level	Country	Trend⁷⁶	Country
1	Goal achieved or nearly achieved	Republic of Belarus Republic of Kyrgyzstan The Russian Federation Republic of Tajikistan Republic of Uzbekistan	Progress is developing at a sufficient pace	Republic of Belarus Republic of Kyrgyzstan the Russian Federation Republic of Uzbekistan
2	Some outstanding issues remain	Republic of Azerbaijan Republic of Armenia, Republic of Kazakhstan Republic of Moldova Turkmenistan Ukraine	Moderate progress	
3	Significant challenges remain		Lack of progress	Republic of Armenia Republic of Kazakhstan
4	Global challenges remain		Deterioration of the situation	Republic of Azerbaijan Republic of Moldova

Source: Based on the Sustainable Development Report 2021, Cambridge

As can be seen from table 10, experts positively assess both the education situation in the CIS countries and the progress made towards achieving SDG 4. According to experts, five CIS countries have already achieved SDG 4, while some outstanding issues remain in six countries. At the same time, four countries are showing sufficient progress, in two countries the progress has stopped, and in two countries it has slowed down. For three countries, the trend assessment was not carried out by experts due to the lack of data.

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

An expert assessment of progress towards SDG 5 is presented in Table 11.

Table 11 Assessment of the Level and Trend of Achieving SDG 5 in the CIS Countries

	Level	Country	Trend	Country
1	Goal achieved or nearly achieved		Progress is developing at a sufficient pace	Republic of Belarus
2	Some outstanding issues remain	Republic of Belarus Republic of Kazakhstan Republic of Uzbekistan	Moderate progress	Republic of Armenia Republic of Moldova The Russian Federation Republic of Uzbekistan Ukraine
3	Significant challenges	Republic of Armenia	Lack of progress	Republic of Azerbaijan

⁷⁶ Due to the absence of data, trend assessment for Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine is absent

	remain	Republic of Kyrgyzstan Republic of Moldova the Russian Federation, Republic of Tajikistan Turkmenistan Ukraine		Republic of Kazakhstan Republic of Kyrgyzstan Republic of Tajikistan Turkmenistan
4	Global challenges remain	Republic of Azerbaijan	Deterioration of the situation	

Source: Based on the Sustainable Development Report 2021, Cambridge

As can be seen from Table 11, experts assess the progress of achieving SDG 5 in the CIS countries quite moderately. The goal has not yet been achieved in any CIS country and only three countries are in a situation where only some issues remain unresolved. Seven countries could still face significant challenges, and one country needs to address significant global issues on the way to achieving gender equality. The speed of progress towards the goal is different for the CIS countries. One country is moving at a sufficient speed to ensure that it achieves SDG 5 by the target date, five CIS countries are showing moderate progress, and another five countries are showing a lack of progress, which may be due to differences in cultural and religious traditions.

SDG 6 Ensure the availability and management of water resources and sanitation for all

Assessing the progress of implementation of SDG 6 in the CIS countries, experts note an overall positive trend (see Table 12).

Table 12 Assessment of the Level and Trend of Achieving SDG 6 in the CIS Countries

	Level	Country	Trend	Country
1	Goal achieved or nearly achieved		Progress is developing at a sufficient pace	Republic of Azerbaijan Republic of Armenia, Republic of Kazakhstan Republic of Tajikistan Turkmenistan Republic of Uzbekistan
2	Some outstanding issues remain	Republic of Kazakhstan	Moderate progress	Republic of Belarus Republic of Kyrgyzstan Republic of Moldova The Russian Federation Ukraine
3	Significant challenges remain	Republic of Azerbaijan Republic of Armenia Republic of Belarus Republic of Kyrgyzstan Republic of Moldova The Russian Federation	Lack of progress	

		Republic of Tajikistan Ukraine		
4	Global challenges remain	Turkmenistan Republic of Uzbekistan	Deterioration of the situation	

Source: Based on the Sustainable Development Report 2021, Cambridge

As can be seen from table 12, progress towards SDG 6 in the six CIS countries is proceeding at a pace sufficient to achieve the target within the target time frame. There has been moderate progress in five countries. At the same time, only one country has only a few unresolved problems along the way, while eight CIS countries face quite serious problems, two countries face global problems.

SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Experts assess the situation and trends in the implementation of SDG 7 in the CIS countries as follows (see Table 13).

Table 13 Assessment of the Level and Trend of Achieving SDG 7 in the CIS Countries

	Level	Country	Trend	Country
1	Goal achieved or nearly achieved	Armenia	Progress is developing at a sufficient pace	Republic of Armenia Republic of Kyrgyzstan Republic of Tajikistan
2	Some outstanding issues remain	Republic of Azerbaijan Republic of Belarus Republic of Kazakhstan Republic of Kyrgyzstan Republic of Moldova The Russian Federation Republic of Tajikistan Turkmenistan Republic of Uzbekistan Ukraine	Moderate progress	Republic of Azerbaijan Republic of Belarus Republic of Kazakhstan Republic of Moldova The Russian Federation Turkmenistan Republic of Uzbekistan Ukraine
3	Significant challenges remain		Lack of progress	
4	Global challenges remain		Deterioration of the situation	

Source: Based on the Sustainable Development Report 2021, Cambridge

As can be seen from the table, the goal is almost achieved in one country, while the rest of the CIS countries have to solve some outstanding problems. At the same time, three countries are moving towards achieving SDG 7 at a pace sufficient to achieve the result within the target time frame, and eight countries have so far shown moderate progress towards this goal.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Experts assess the progress of achieving SDG 8 in the CIS countries as follows (see Table 14).

Table 14 Assessment of the Level and Trend of Achieving SDG 8 in the CIS Countries

	Level	Country	Trend	Country
1	Goal achieved or nearly achieved		Progress is developing at a sufficient pace	Turkmenistan
2	Some outstanding issues remain	The Russian Federation	Moderate progress	Republic of Armenia Republic of Belarus Republic of Kazakhstan Republic of Kyrgyzstan Republic of Moldova The Russian Federation Republic of Tajikistan Ukraine
3	Significant challenges remain	Republic of Kazakhstan Republic of Kyrgyzstan Ukraine	Lack of progress	Republic of Azerbaijan Republic of Uzbekistan
4	Global challenges remain	Republic of Azerbaijan Republic of Armenia Republic of Belarus Republic of Moldova Republic of Tajikistan Turkmenistan Republic of Uzbekistan	Deterioration of the situation	

Source: Based on the Sustainable Development Report 2021, Cambridge

As can be seen from Table 14, only one CIS country faces individual challenges, while most CIS countries will face global challenges towards SDG 8 and only three countries will have to address serious but not global challenges. One country is leading in the pace of achieving SDG 8, nine countries are showing moderate progress and two countries are showing no progress.

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and innovation

Experts estimate the level and trend of achieving SDG 9 in the CIS countries as follows (see Table 15).

Table 15 Assessment of the Level and Trend of Achieving SDG 9 in the CIS Countries

	Level	Country	Trend	Country
1	Goal achieved or nearly achieved		Progress and development at a sufficient pace	

2	Some outstanding issues remain		Moderate progress	Republic of Armenia, Republic of Belarus Republic of Kazakhstan Republic of Kyrgyzstan The Russian Federation Republic of Uzbekistan Ukraine
3	Significant challenges remain	Republic of Azerbaijan Republic of Armenia Republic of Belarus Republic of Kazakhstan Republic of Moldova The Russian Federation Ukraine	Lack of progress	Republic of Azerbaijan Republic of Moldova Republic of Tajikistan Turkmenistan
4	Global challenges remain	Republic of Kyrgyzstan Republic of Tajikistan Turkmenistan Republic of Uzbekistan	Deterioration of the situation	

Source: Based on the Sustainable Development Report 2021, Cambridge

As can be seen from table 15, significant challenges remain in achieving SDG 9 in seven CIS countries, and global challenges need to be addressed in four countries. At the same time, seven countries have shown moderate progress towards SDG 9, and four countries have recorded a lack of progress.

SDG 10 Reduce inequalities within and between countries

Experts examined the situation of inequality in the CIS countries, but could not assess how close or far countries are from achieving this goal due to the lack of sufficient data (see table 16).

Table 16 Assessment of the Level and Trend of Achieving SDG 10 in the CIS Countries

	Level	Country	Trend ⁷⁷	Country
1	Goal achieved or nearly achieved	Ukraine	Progress is developing at a sufficient pace	
2	Some outstanding issues remain	Republic of Belarus Republic of Kazakhstan Republic of Kyrgyzstan Republic of Moldova	Moderate progress	
3	Significant challenges remain	Republic of Azerbaijan the Russian Federation Republic of Tajikistan	Lack of progress	
4	Global challenges	Republic of Armenia	Deterioration of the	

⁷⁷ Due to lack of data, trend assessment is missing.

	remain	Republic of Uzbekistan	situation	
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Source: Based on the Sustainable Development Report 2021, Cambridge.

As can be seen from the table, the situation in the CIS countries in terms of reducing inequality is heterogeneous. One country has almost achieved the goal, four countries must address individual challenges, three countries face significant challenges, and two countries face global challenges to ensure that SDG 10 is achieved.

SDG 11 Ensure the openness, security, resilience and environmental sustainability of cities and human settlements

Experts assessed the level and trend of achieving SDG 11 in the CIS countries (see Table 17).

Table 17 Assessment of the Level and Trend of Achieving SDG 11 in the CIS Countries

	Level	Country	Trend	Country
1	Goal achieved or nearly achieved		Progress is developing at a sufficient pace	
2	Some outstanding issues remain	Republic of Azerbaijan Republic of Kazakhstan Republic of Kyrgyzstan the Russian Federation	Moderate progress	Republic of Azerbaijan Republic of Armenia Republic of Belarus Republic of Kazakhstan Republic of Kyrgyzstan Republic of Moldova The Russian Federation Republic of Tajikistan
3	Significant challenges remain	Republic of Armenia Republic of Belarus Republic of Moldova Turkmenistan Ukraine	Lack of progress	Turkmenistan Republic of Uzbekistan Ukraine
4	Global challenges remain	Republic of Tajikistan Republic of Uzbekistan	Deterioration of the situation	

Source: Based on the Sustainable Development Report 2021, Cambridge

As can be seen from the Table 17, the situation in the CIS countries in terms of the openness, security, resilience and environmental sustainability of cities and human settlements is heterogeneous. Although moderate progress is shown by eight out of 11 CIS countries, three countries have a lack of progress. With two countries facing global challenges to achieve SDG 11, five countries still have significant challenges and only four countries. must address selected issues on the way to SDG 11.

SDG 12 Ensure the transition to sustainable consumption and production patterns

Experts assessed the level and trend of achieving SDG 12 in the CIS countries (see Table 18).

Table 18 Assessment of the Level and Trend of Achieving SDG 12 in the CIS Countries

	Level	Country	Trend⁷⁸	Country
1	Goal achieved or nearly achieved		Progress is developing at a sufficient pace	
2	Some outstanding issues remain	Republic of Armenia Republic of Kyrgyzstan Republic of Tajikistan Turkmenistan Republic of Uzbekistan Ukraine	Moderate progress	
3	Significant challenges remain	Republic of Azerbaijan Republic of Belarus Republic of Kazakhstan Republic of Moldova The Russian Federation	Lack of progress	
4	Global challenges remain		Deterioration of the situation	

Source: Based on the Sustainable Development Report 2021, Cambridge.

As can be seen from table 18, the production and consumption situation in the CIS countries is assessed by experts quite positively. In six countries, there remains a need to address some outstanding issues, and in five countries there are still significant challenges to be addressed. Assessment of progress towards the SDG 12 was not due to the lack of data.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to address climate change and its impacts

Experts assessed the level and trend of achieving SDG 13 in the CIS countries (see Table 19).

Table 19 Assessment of the Level and Trend of Achieving SDG 13 in the CIS Countries

	Level	Country	Trend	Country
1	Goal achieved or nearly achieved	Republic of Moldova Republic of Tajikistan	Progress is developing at a sufficient pace	Republic of Kazakhstan Republic of Moldova Republic of Tajikistan
2	Some outstanding issues remain	Republic of Armenia Republic of Belarus Republic of Kyrgyzstan Republic of Uzbekistan	Moderate progress	Republic of Azerbaijan Republic of Belarus Republic of Uzbekistan Ukraine

⁷⁸ Due to the lack of data, an expert assessment of trends in achieving SDG 12 has not been carried out.

3	Significant challenges remain	Republic of Azerbaijan Republic of Kazakhstan the Russian Federation Ukraine	Lack of progress	Republic of Armenia Republic of Kazakhstan The Russian Federation Turkmenistan
4	Global challenges remain	Turkmenistan	Deterioration of the situation	

Source: Based on the Sustainable Development Report 2021, Cambridge

As can be seen from table 19, the situation with climate change in the CIS countries is different. Two countries are almost there, four are on track to achieve it and need only to address some outstanding issues, four countries have to address significant issues, and one country will face global challenges. At the same time, the speed of achieving the goal in three countries corresponds to the necessary for its full implementation, four countries are moving towards solving the problems of climate change, demonstrating moderate progress, and four countries are showing a lack of progress.

In general, this assessment to some extent corresponds to the level of industrial development of the CIS countries – the higher it is, the more problems countries need to solve during the implementation of SDG 13.

SDG 14 Conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Experts assessed the level and trend of achieving SDG 14 in the two CIS countries, as for other countries they were unable to obtain the data necessary for the assessment (see table 19).

Table 220 Assessment of the Level and Trend of Achieving SDG 14 in the CIS Countries⁷⁹

	Level	Country	Trend	Country
1	Goal achieved or nearly achieved		Progress is developing at a sufficient pace	
2	Some outstanding issues remain		Moderate progress	
3	Significant challenges remain		Lack of progress	The Russian Federation Ukraine
4	Global challenges remain	The Russian Federation Ukraine	Deterioration of the situation	

Source: Based on the Sustainable Development Report 2021, Cambridge

⁷⁹ For countries Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Armenia, Republic of Belarus, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Republic of Uzbekistan there is no data, necessary for the evaluation.

As can be seen from the table, the Russian Federation and Ukraine (countries for which data is available) have so far shown a lack of progress towards SDG 14 and will face global challenges in achieving this goal. Perhaps the lack of data is due to the fact that only the Russian Federation has access to the ocean, while all other CIS countries have access to the seas or do not have it at all. However, as the production of fish products is developing in the CIS countries, they all need to ensure the implementation of SDG 14 at the national level.

SDG 15 Protecting and restoring terrestrial ecosystems and promoting their sustainable use, sustainable forest management, combating desertification, halting and reversing land degradation and halting the loss of biological diversity

Experts assessed the level and trend of achieving SDG 15 equally for all CIS countries (see Table 21).

Table 21 Assessment of the Level and Trend of Achieving SDG15 in the CIS Countries

	Level	Country	Trend	Country
1	Goal achieved or nearly achieved		Progress is developing at a sufficient pace	
2	Some outstanding issues remain		Moderate progress	
3	Significant challenges remain		Lack of progress	Republic of Azerbaijan Republic of Armenia Republic of Belarus Republic of Kazakhstan Republic of Kyrgyzstan Republic of Moldova The Russian Federation Republic of Tajikistan Turkmenistan Republic of Uzbekistan Ukraine
4	Global challenges remain	Republic of Azerbaijan Republic of Armenia Republic of Belarus Republic of Kazakhstan Republic of Kyrgyzstan Republic of Moldova The Russian Federation Republic of Tajikistan Turkmenistan Republic of Uzbekistan Ukraine	Deterioration of the situation	

Source: Based on the Sustainable Development Report 2021, Cambridge

As can be seen from Table 21, experts believe that progress towards SDG 15 in the CIS countries is equally absent in all CIS countries. At the same time, the assessment of the situation

shows that all countries in implementing SDG 15 must solve global problems in order to achieve success and achieve this goal by the established deadline.

SDG 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, ensure access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and participatory institutions at all levels

Experts assessed the level and trend of achieving the goal (see table 22).

Table 22 Assessment of the Level and Trend of Achieving SDG 16 in the CIS Countries

	Level	Country	Trend	Country
1	Goal achieved or nearly achieved		Progress is developing at a sufficient pace	Republic of Belarus
2	Some outstanding issues remain	Republic of Armenia	Moderate progress	Republic of Azerbaijan Republic of Armenia Republic of Kazakhstan Republic of Kyrgyzstan Republic of Moldova The Russian Federation Republic of Uzbekistan Ukraine
3	Significant challenges remain	Republic of Belarus	Lack of progress	Republic of Tajikistan Turkmenistan
4	Global challenges remain	Republic of Azerbaijan Republic of Kazakhstan Republic of Kyrgyzstan Republic of Moldova The Russian Federation, Republic of Tajikistan Turkmenistan Republic of Uzbekistan Ukraine	Deterioration of the situation	

Source: Based on the Sustainable Development Report 2021, Cambridge

As follows from Table 22 most CIS countries, need to address global challenges in order to implement SDG 16. To date, only one CIS country has made sufficient progress towards this goal, while eight countries have shown only modest progress and two countries have shown little progress towards SDG 16.

SDG 17 Strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Experts assessed the level and trend of achieving the goal (see table 23).

Table 23 Assessment of the Level and Trend of Achieving SDG 17 in the CIS Countries

	Level	Country	Trend	Country
1	Goal achieved or nearly achieved		Progress is developing at a sufficient pace	Republic of Belarus The Russian Federation
2	Some outstanding	Republic of Belarus	Moderate progress	Republic of Azerbaijan

	issues remain	Republic of Kyrgyzstan Republic of Moldova The Russian Federation, Ukraine		Republic of Moldova Ukraine
3	Significant challenges remain	Republic of Azerbaijan Republic of Armenia, Republic of Tajikistan Republic of Uzbekistan	Lack of progress	Republic of Armenia Republic of Kazakhstan Republic of Kyrgyzstan Republic of Tajikistan Turkmenistan Republic of Uzbekistan
4	Global challenges remain	Republic of Kazakhstan Turkmenistan	Deterioration of the situation	

Source: Based on the Sustainable Development Report 2021, Cambridge

As table 23 suggests, the five CIS countries are on the way to achieving SDG 17 and need to address some outstanding issues, four countries will face more complex challenges, and two countries will need to address global challenges. At the same time, two countries are moving towards achieving SDG 17 at a pace that ensures they reach the target on time, three countries are showing moderate progress, and six countries are showing a lack of progress.