



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

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**DECLARATION
ON
UNITED NATIONS 2030 AGENDA
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which entered into force in January 2016, are a new universal set of economic, social and environmental goals that United Nations member states are expected to reach by 2030.

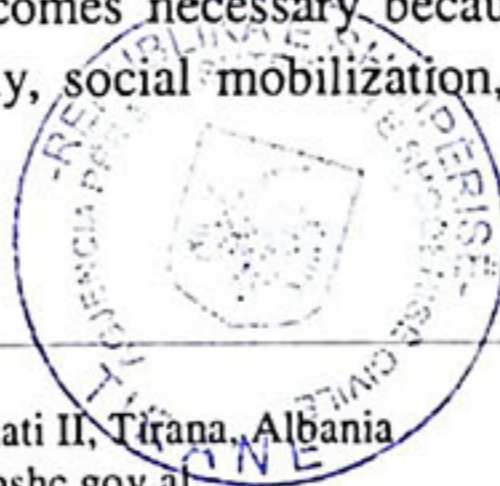
SDGs, though not legally binding, represent a political commitment to development, by all UN member states. These universal goals are expected to create a benchmark that ensures the balance of economic development and global environmental goals with poverty reduction targets.

Albania has joined the Global Partnership, designed to make a strong contribution to achieving the Agenda 2030 and remains fully committed to its implementation in the context of the National Strategy for Development and Integration as well as the European Integration Process.

Up to now, discussions on SDGs have been mainly linked to the definition of goals and indicators. Less attention has been paid to the discussion on the roles and responsibilities that different social partners should take, to achieve these goals and to implement this universal framework at central and local level.

Given the purpose and ambition of SDGs, it is clear that the Government itself could not achieve these goals. The Government should facilitate and enable the participation of all sectors of society, including civil society organizations (CSOs), the private sector and the general public.

The involvement of CSOs, in these processes, becomes necessary because they play a crucial role in society, as the agents of accountability, social mobilization, advocacy and service delivery.



The National Council for Civil Society considers the accession into the European Union as a top priority and the country's most important strategic ambition, as the EU integration process bears full political consensus and nationwide support, turning it into a solid way to reach a sustainable future for the citizens of Albania.

The Council appreciates the efforts undertaken to link SDGs with EU integration goals, referring to the National Strategy for European Integration 2014-2020.

In this process, the civil society plays a critical role in promoting advocacy and mediation regarding policy development, by identifying key development priorities and alternative presentations for practical solutions regarding main issues.

Particularly, we encourage CSOs working to summarize these goals in four key areas:

1. *giving voice to the poorest and most marginalized citizens,*
2. *servicing as accountability agents,*
3. *acting as service providers and*
4. *monitoring development through data collection and reporting.*

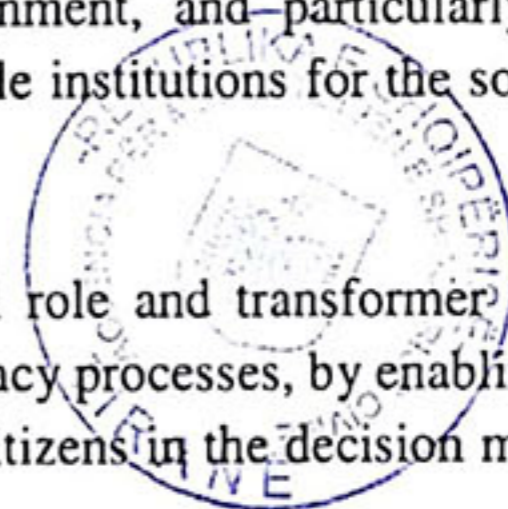
Special attention is given to initiatives that precede the Sustainable Development Goal: "Leave no one behind", which reflects the ambition for an all-inclusive process, whereby the Government enters into partnership with all sectors of the society, and where "The Agenda 2030" clearly emphasizes the role of civil society to involve all stakeholders, but mainly those in need, in this initiative.

For this reason, it is important to create opportunities, spaces and platforms to be engaged, in order to promote true dialogues, sustainable cooperation between the CSOs and Government to encourage the participation of the community in the direction of improving governance.

SDGs are a globally legitimate reference for CSOs, which may propose the introduction of many issues in policy-making framework. CSOs should identify improvements and interventions which can bring a significant change for people in need, by converting the voice of the poorest and most marginalized citizens to rational and strong arguments, to be addressed by the central and local government.

The National Council for Civil Society values, as very important, the development of the relationships and partnerships with central and local government, and particularly, the identification of the government structures, actors or responsible institutions for the solution of various problems, faced by society.

We encourage all Civil Society efforts to play the crucial role and transformer in the Albanian society by being engaged in the consulting and advocacy processes, by enabling the information, capacity building and active participation of the citizens in the decision making processes and fulfillment of SDGs.



In line with SDGs implementation, data collection, reporting and monitoring should be a comprehensive and transparent process, involving statistical experts, CSOs, national human rights institutions, service providers and citizens.

In this process, beyond the contribution and expertise of data collection, CSOs are encouraged to also play an important role in direct monitoring of the implementation of SDGs. We encourage Parliament, Central and Local Government and all public institutions to report with transparency, objectivity the fulfillment of SDGs by creating all possible spaces for participation, dialog and consulting with the CSOs in Albania.

The National Council for Civil Society considers essential the development of the role of the civil society sector for the effective implementation of SDGs, as well as the necessity to increase its engagement, impact and effectiveness in the country's development processes. In this context, the Council confirms its readiness, commitment and unwavering willingness to provide and enable the assistance of civil society organizations throughout the process of fulfillment of SDGs, through knowledge and experiences according to areas covered by the Council.

