

PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF NATIONALIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG INDICATORS IN GEORGIA

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Introduction

Achieving sustainable development goals may be overlooked amid the acute economic crisis created by the current pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war. On September 25, 2015, the 193 member states of the United Nations reached an unprecedented agreement on the sustainable development document “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which includes 17 goals and 169 tasks (United Nations, 2020). The Sustainable Development Goals are based on three interrelated elements of sustainable development: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection.

Whether Georgia will be able to be relevant to the tasks of sustainable development with its economic strategy, reforms and results is a highly important issue.

1.1. Sustainable development goals and objectives

The goals and objectives of sustainable development

should contribute to overcoming such difficulties as: poverty and hunger; inequality between countries; formation of a peaceful and fair society; protection of human rights; reforming education and healthcare in order to promote the development of human capital; gender equality; Protection and rational use of natural resources of the planet. (OECD G20 summit on outlook for global economy. 2020a.)

The administration of the Government of Georgia has expressed strong political support for the goals and objectives of sustainable development.

2. Determining the efficiency of resource consumption

2.1. Transport policy

Transport policy occupies one of the important places in the sustainable development approaches of the United Nations. Its unsustainability is mainly caused by the rapid growth of vehicles, as a result of which both the natural environment and the standard of living of the society are damaged. This unsustainability can be corrected by providing public transport and diversifying the types of transport.

Important steps that will solve this problem are the following:

- Reflecting their public costs in transport prices.
- Giving investment priority to public transport.

So far, economic and financial resources are not used to place less polluted products. Fares are not differentiated between types of public transport. Citizens are not encouraged to use both modern electric and underground transport.

In addition to reducing air pollution and CO2 emissions, electric vehicles offer a number of additional benefits. They require much lower maintenance costs than conventional vehicles; In addition, they are less noisy and easier to manage, reducing society's dependence on imported energy. They can also have a positive effect on the international balance of payments, and contribute to the settlement of international conflicts related to natural resources.

Unfortunately, the production of electric cars is relatively expensive compared to internal combustion engines. It should be noted that electric vehicles have a limited operating range. If they are fully charged, they can travel about 300 km, and charging with electricity is a much longer process than filling the fuel tank. (Sustainable Development Goals. United Nations. Statistical Annex. 2022)

Against this backdrop, some EU member states have set aside subsidies to help build the electric car market, which in turn will help increase production and sales volumes, and lower costs. At the same time, significant attention is paid to battery technologies development. In this regard, creation and production of cheap and light batteries is a priority.

Nowadays, many people still own a personal car. Everyone wants to have a multi-functional vehicle in which there will be enough space for all family members and at the same time it will be able to transport various furniture. It is desirable if it also has air conditioning and heating devices, a large fuel tank and maintenance systems in cities. We face a fact - modern "multifunctional" machines are very massive, heavy, and therefore inefficient. This problem is even more acute for electric cars, because batteries represent a 33% increase in the weight of the car. This indicates that much of the energy stored in the batteries is simply needed to transport the heavier battery.

It is also worth noting that the young generation of recent years is increasingly moving away from the traditional system of owning one personal car. Having cars on a shared basis is becoming popular. Also, sharing companies offer their clients a choice of different vehicles, a single car no longer needs to be as multi-functional as it was in the case of private cars.

Instead, they can be more versatile, lighter, and also offer the user shorter distances for which a lighter battery is designed, which will significantly increase the efficiency of such vehicles.

The price of electricity has always had a big impact on the attractiveness of electric cars. In the worst case scenario, if thousands of EVs are charging at the same time, the grid will inevitably be overloaded, making it unstable. Because of this, additional investments will be necessary. On the other hand, if electric vehicles were charged at a certain time, electricity costs would be reduced and the power grid would become much more stable.

There is a broad consensus that the successful implementation of e-mobility in public life will depend on various public actions, incentives and support programs. All the attention should be shifted on the one hand to the interest of existing car owners in electric cars and the creation of electric charging infrastructure, and on the other hand, the creation of proper infrastructure that will directly allow consumers to use electric cars in the same way as they currently use internal combustion engine cars.

Along with the fact that the state should take care of the production and promotion of new electric cars, emphasis should also be placed on the new generation, which will be more able to engage and adapt to the car sharing process. Promoting car sharing, services and the development of light vehicles is far more appropriate than subsidizing heavy electric vehicles for private individuals who want them to emulate the efficiency of their current cars. We must also focus on how to integrate electric mobility in the future in the next 20 years, when even more private homes will be equipped with PV battery energy storage systems.

In 2019, information about the production of

electronic cars in Kutaisi was announced. which was stopped due to the pandemic and hopefully will be revived someday.

Sustainable development focuses on and involves tackling specific problems and implementing specific approaches.

2.2. Promotion of green products in state procurement

In order to promote green products, the strategy of sustainable development of Europe envisages the activation and introduction of incentive mechanisms on the part of the state, including the privilege of purchasing a number of green products during state procurement. In this regard, the environmental impact factor is considered as one of the criteria in the tenders announced during the implementation of state purchases.

State procurement procedures in Georgia have improved considerably, which is also reflected in the implementation of the electronic procurement mechanism. This contributed to the development of competitive conditions and brought quite high financial savings to the state. The winner of the tender will be the individual who meets the conditions drawn up by the tender commission and at the same time sets the lowest price. (Environmental Performance Index 2020 (2020b))

The procuring organization must ensure, when developing the tender proposal, as much as possible a description of all technical and qualitative objects, which will be practically recognized based on international standards. Purchasing organizations have the right to indicate indicators of various effects on the environment during the description of goods and services.

The basis for the implementation of economic mechanisms for environmental protection is the following principle - "the polluter pays." For the government, its use is manifested in various actions and regulations: these are the setting of permits and taxes on environmental pollution, reducing pollution, imposing costs on individuals who pollute the

environment, imposing the obligation to repair the damage caused in order to compensate etc.

Polluters should have the costs of pollution reflected in the price of their products. The purpose of this is to attract entrepreneurs to use technologies that pollute the environment much less. Such an approach also ensures the deepening of the consumer's interest in such products and makes it much more attractive. This approach is widely used around the world.

It is essential that prices give the right direction to businesses to improve products and services that reduce pressure on the environment.

The "polluter pays" principle has already been introduced in Georgia. But unfortunately, it is not understood that the costs of pollution are distributed equally to all entrepreneurs and consumers, regardless of whether their share in the pollution is large or not, and we cannot call this the "polluter pays" principle. Such an approach does not allow to correct the situation in the direction of less environmental pollution.

The European Union obliges its countries to restore the environmental damage to its original state. According to Georgian legislation, an entrepreneur who has caused damage to the environment must compensate the state. Compensation for damage caused to the environment is borne by both an ordinary person and a legal entity. The received funds are about 4-5 million lari per year, which are used to fill the state budget, while they are used less for the restoration of the damaged environment, and the funds received for the restoration of the environment will go in other directions.

2.3. Social responsibility of business

Involved in the field of social responsibility of business are the state, business and society, which actively communicate with each other. It should be noted that the number of socially oriented companies will increase even more, as the demands on them from the society and the state are growing.

The topic of social responsibility of business has been relevant in Georgia for more than 10

years. Introduction of the principles and practices of social responsibility of business in Georgia is necessary, because it is the most important step for the development of the business sector. It is a tool for effective communication with society, stability, security and sustainable development. It is a fact that due to the difficult social situation, the society of Georgia has to make a choice on the prices of products, which puts enterprises in unprofitable positions. The majority of Georgian companies try to implement social programs at the expense of their own resources. In the West, business chooses priority directions, sets a budget, announces a grant competition and at the same time chooses a non-governmental organization.

There is less trust between business and non-governmental organizations in Georgia, which is reflected in their less communication. In order for trust to build between these two, some time is needed - where they will undoubtedly see each other's need. So far it happens that companies prefer to work with their own resources rather than to announce tenders.

One of the large-scale activities of organizations is social responsibility. Corporate social responsibility is considered a kind of investment that plays a big role in attracting foreign investment. This is especially important if we want to attract investments from the developed countries of the West. The development of corporate social responsibility will have a positive impact on the sustainable development of the country, improvement of foreign relations and many problems in the country.

The public sector should take appropriate steps so that the private sector can make a significant contribution to the development of the country with its own responsibility.

3.1 Nationalization and monitoring of SDG indicators

In order for the nationalization process of SDG indicators to be carried out effectively in Georgia, a horizontal integration module was selected for connecting sustainable development goals and objectives with existing policy documents. The main

objective of the analysis was to determine whether the existing national policy documents correspond to the indicators of the tasks of the Sustainable Development Goals. Correct evaluation of this picture will help the government of our country to discover various problematic areas and then all necessary steps will be taken to eliminate them in the direction of nationalization of sustainable development goals.

In order to determine the degree of integration of the UN sustainable development goals into the public policy system, the principles developed by sustainable development, which are directly related to its goals and objectives, are used. To ensure accountability, information is available on the activities of the Sustainable Development Goals Interagency Coordinating Council, whose task is to oversee and monitor the Sustainable Development Goals process in Georgia, support mechanisms for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals at the local national level, and work closely with civil society and the private sector. (Covid-19: From shock to recovery, 2022.)

We have an open governance partnership principle that serves to promote the participation of stakeholders involved in the implementation of sustainable development goals.

In order to involve the society as much as possible in the processes, it is planned to activate the relevant platforms more and to raise the awareness of people regarding the mentioned tools. It is important that each goal is firmly established and then followed through. The Prime Minister of Georgia has created a Council corresponding to the Sustainable Development Goals, whose head is the Head of the Administration of the Government of Georgia. 4 thematic working groups have been created under the Council. These are: social engagement; economic development; sustainable energy and environmental protection; Democratic governance. The work of all of them is supported by the Secretariat, whose function is combined with the Policy Planning and Coordination Department of the Government of Georgia. All parties from the public, civil, international, academic and private sectors are involved in the work of the council and working

groups.

Initially, the country's government created technical working groups that provided indicators suitable for the country's context. Finally, the government of our country approved 17 goals, 95 tasks and 215 indicators, on the basis of which the national plan was developed. The countries themselves take responsibility for selecting the tasks of this or that indicator. There is a possibility that some tasks and indicators can be removed or added individually for each country. In order to promote and monitor the SDG implementation process, four special monitoring groups were created in our country: social inclusion, economic growth, human rights and sustainable energy and environmental protection. With the support of the Government of Georgia, thematic groups are trying to provide coordination between different organizations in order to actively communicate about data exchange. In order to share experiences with each other, non-governmental and private sector representatives are involved in the relevant process. Working groups meet once a year. (The process of nationalization of sustainable development goals in Georgia)

It is desirable to make a list of responsible organizations that will be diverse and to designate those organizations that are responsible for the performance of the relevant process. All this is favorable for defining strategies for SDG indicators and organizing action plans. Georgia is trying to implement economic growth, however, the analysis and evaluation of the expenses incurred for this purpose is inappropriate. In particular, it does not determine such important factors as: the costs of this growth, how natural resources were used according to their renewable classification, whether the natural environment was degraded or not, and what benefits we received taking into account all this.

conclusion

If the country has resources that have not yet been identified or properly studied, then the government should urgently find every means to ensure the financing of those programs and initiatives that are

intended to eliminate the mentioned problems and thus contribute to the advancement of the country's future, raising the standard of living of the population and job creation. Citizens have the right to participate in decision-making processes, including at the local level. The right of citizen participation is directly related to the citizen's right to influence the exercise of government powers and responsibilities. It is precisely in the process of development and evaluation of public services that the involvement of citizens provides the basis for obtaining better results of the government's policy and promotes the strengthening of trust between citizens and the government. The authorities are obliged to provide the society with the necessary environmental protection information, and in case of request, to give them. Because without correct information it is practically impossible to form a free opinion.

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