

MGOS RESPONSE AND QUESTIONS FROM THE CSOs IN ARMENIA TO THE VNR OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ARMENIA

We welcome and commend the Armenian Government's SDG 2020 VNR Report. This reaffirms the Armenian Government's commitment to endorse the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and attests to the existence of the political will to act on it.

We attach great importance to the Government's actions towards nationalization of SDGs, including but not limited to:

- Establishment of the SDG National Innovation Center of Armenia,
- Creation of the RA Council for SDGs
- Launching the development process of Armenia's Transformation Strategy 2020-2050.

While necessary, these initiatives are not yet sufficient to address the 2030 Agenda. Major efforts are required to make progress on SDG implementation, particularly in the area of gender equality.

- Considering the high importance of maintaining the principle of inclusiveness and participation throughout the entire process of SDG implementation, what are the planned actions to further strengthen the multi-stakeholder dimension, with the main focus on CSOs and expert community engagement in the process of nationalization of SDG targets and indicators, particularly on SDG 5?
- What are the embraced strategies to mainstream gender equality principles into actions on implementation of all SDGs in accordance with the Commitments made by Armenia within the framework of the BPfA, CEDAW, and UN SCR1325?
- The world is facing an unprecedented threat from COVID-19. With the ambition to leave no one behind, how the impact of Pandemic is considered in the SDG implementation process, with the main focus on women and girls?

Bearing in mind that the Republic of Armenia recognizes principles of universal values, human rights and democracy as an inseparable part of its state philosophy, we count on the political will to take steps in the above-mentioned directions.