

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

On behalf of Bulgarian civil society, we note that although Bulgaria has a “Bulgaria 2020” strategy, a precise coordination mechanism for achievement of the SDGs with clear and transparent methods of interaction does not yet exist. We want to strengthen Bulgaria’s commitment to the SDGs. To accelerate progress and to address many of the immediate needs of Bulgaria, we offer our partnership with the government to create and implement an SDG monitoring system under the UN Agenda 2030. We are willing to partner immediately on a national scale for ALL SDGs.

We offer just one example of how an essential Bulgarian problem can be effectively addressed through such a coordination mechanism. Regarding SDG 6, Bulgaria has lagged in providing adequate water and sanitation services for all Bulgarians. Billions of euros have already been invested. Yet these essential services are not affordable for everyone. The VNR itself acknowledges the problem. Bulgaria admits that the losses are 56.4% due to old pipes. Over 50% of the water supply network is older than 35 years.

The National WS Strategy envisages 2,1 billion EUR in further investment until 2023 leading to additional 40-60% cost increase. The poorest often pay more than 15% of their household income. Those in the third decile often pay more than 10% of their income. The affordability threshold in Bulgarian legislation is up to 2.5% of the average family income.

How will Bulgaria ensure affordable access to safe drinking water in the context of human right to safe water and sanitation, especially in rural areas and for vulnerable groups?