



# Sustainable Development Policy Coherence: LAUNCHING the “MAPS” REPORT 19 September 2019, Tirana International Hotel

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## **Background**

Since September 2015, Albania has embarked on the achievement of the Agenda 2030 in line with its EU integration agenda and National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015–2020 (NSDI II).

The UN in Albania is supporting the Government in rolling out the SDGs with focus on advocacy and sensitization, prioritizing and localizing the SDGs, and mainstreaming them into national policies and plans using the MAPS<sup>1</sup> platform as a basis. In April 2018, a one-week in-country SDG MAPS mission took place to assess the state of play on SDG implementation and provide recommendations for future actions to accelerate the achievement of 2030 Agenda. This mission was undertaken in partnership with the EU Delegation and World Bank office in the country.

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<sup>1</sup> MAPS (M-Mainstreaming, A-Acceleration, PS-Policy Support) is a UN system-wide undertaking which mobilizes UNCTs and leverages UN Agencies’ collaborative advantages to contribute to people-centered and rights-based sustainable development.

Led by UNDP's Istanbul Hub and the UN Resident Coordinator in Albania, a team of ten high level experts from UN Agencies, the European Union Delegation and the World Bank engaged in a series of consultations, high level meetings and workshops with Government, civil society, development partners, business sector, amongst others. Further to the mission, the MAPS report was prepared and shared with stakeholders.

This report identifies three broad policy and programming platforms for accelerating progress towards EU accession and achieving the SDGs: (i) governance reform, human rights, and the rule of law; (ii) inclusive green economy; and (iii) investment in social and human capital. These accelerator platforms reflect Albania's development and partnership priorities (as articulated in the EU accession process and the GoA-UN Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development 2017-2021), the added value of UN agencies, complementarity with ongoing efforts, as well as the substantive challenges enumerated in this report.

MAPS Mission and its findings, fed into the preparation of Albania's Voluntary National Review (VNR)<sup>2</sup> on national progress towards sustainable development presented at the UN High Level Political Forum, July 2018.

### **Purpose and Objectives**

The main objective of the workshop is to discuss the findings and recommendations of the MAPS report with various stakeholders, with its clear links to EU integration and policy interventions. The participants at the workshop are expected to:

- Discuss on the set of recommendations with focus on three broad “accelerator” areas. What gaps exist in each area and how can progress be ensured by leveraging sustainable programmatic interventions and resources?
- Discuss how SDGs are linked to EU integration, and more specifically to the instrument for pre-accession (IPA) financing;
- Discuss lessons learned from the Voluntary National Review and how it can influence role of various society actors in SDG achievement and monitoring;
- Discuss on the role of national monitoring system to support moving forward the Agenda 2030. Critical elements include:
  - Setting intermediate targets and indicators based on baseline levels identified in the SDG Baseline Report
  - Developing the mid-term National Action Plan for the achievement of SDGs in line with EU integration agenda
  - Evaluation of the current NSDI II and thinking on the design of its successor
  - Strengthening statistical capacities in SDG data monitoring

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<sup>2</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=30022&nr=961&menu=3170>

## **Agenda**

08.30-09.00	Registration and coffee	
09.00-09.30	<p><b>Session 1</b> Opening Remarks:</p> <p>Ms. Senida Mesi, Deputy Prime Minister, Government of Albania</p> <p>Mr. Brian J. Williams, UN Resident Coordinator</p> <p>Mr. Mario Mariani, Head of Development Cooperation, EU Delegation</p> <p>Ms. Evis Sulko, World Bank</p> <p>High Level Representative Parliament of Albania (TBC)</p>	<p>Opening remarks will focus on:</p> <p>Achievement of SDG Agenda and synergies with EU integration processes- drawing on the MAPS Report conclusions and recommendations and way forward</p>
09.30-10.30	<p><b>Presentation of MAPS report- key recommendations</b></p> <p>Speaker:</p> <p>Mr. Ben Slay</p> <p><b>Lessons Learned from Voluntary National Reporting</b></p> <p>Speaker:</p> <p>Ms Oriana Arapi, General Director, Development Policy and Good Governance Unit, Department of Development and Good Governance</p> <p>Member from the SDG Inter-Institutional Task Force (tbc)</p> <p><b>Role of increased monitoring in SDG achievement</b></p> <p>Speaker:</p> <p>Ms. Delina Brahimaj, Director of INSTAT Q&amp;A session</p>	<p>This session will be focused on:</p> <p>-Presentation of the MAPS Report with its key elements including findings and recommendations.</p> <p>-Key lessons learned from the Voluntary National Review to feed in future SDG mainstreaming actions will be presented.</p> <p>-A presentation from INSTAT work in SDG data monitoring, how can SDG monitoring statistical capacities can be strengthened? Which is the role of non-governmental actors in monitoring and reporting</p>

	Ms. Zana Vokopola, National Civil Society Council (tbc)  Q&A session	
10.30-10.40	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
10.40-11.20	<b>Feedback and next steps</b>  Session introduction: Mr. Ben Slay, MAPS Team, Advisor, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub  Three acceleration group moderators, rapporteurs: TBD	Following a short introduction to the session, participants will split into three groups (one for each SDG “accelerator”) and provide feedback and suggestions on the report and next steps on national SDG achievement. These will be recorded (by rapporteurs) and briefly presented at the end of the session. Following editing, this feedback and suggestions will be reported at the next SDG Inter-Ministerial Committee. They will feed into the current NSDI review and succeeding NSDI formulation, as well as the mid-term review of the 2017-2021 Government-UN Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development.
11.20-11.30	<b>Closing remarks</b>  Ms. Senida Mesji, Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Brian J. Williams, UN Resident Coordinator	Take away from the workshop to influence Government’s future actions and UN’s plans for future support on SDG mainstreaming processes