Armenia’s path towards building back better and achieving sustainable development, anchored in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus.
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Throughout its implementation, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has played an instrumental role in shaping the vision of Armenia for development, outlining a systemic and comprehensive framework for human capital development, sustainable economic growth, social cohesion and enhanced resilience.

The assessment of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation through Voluntary National Reviews is a unique opportunity to comprehensively evaluate the reforms that have been implemented and to assess achievements and challenges for further devising and implementing necessary programmes and reforms.

As a middle-income Landlocked Developing Country (LLDC), Armenia has been facing many structural challenges and difficulties in turning the promise of the SDGs into real benefits for its people. Additionally, the security environment in our region and beyond and the blockaded borders imposed by two neighbouring countries create additional obstacles for Armenia in building a strong democratic state and achieving sustainable development.

The recent review period has been profoundly challenging for Armenia. It began amid the global upheaval of the COVID-19 pandemic and unfolded with a significant security crisis in the region resulting from the large-scale aggression of Azerbaijan against the people of Nagorno-Karabakh in the fall of 2020, causing violence, destruction, human suffering and gross violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.

In the aftermath of the 44-day war, the acts of aggression of Azerbaijan against the Republic of Armenia in May and November 2021 and in September 2022 resulted in the occupation of sovereign territories of Armenia, with heavy negative impacts on the security, fundamental human rights and livelihoods of the border communities. Regardless of all these challenges, the snap parliamentary elections conducted in June 2021 were recognized as free and fair by all reputable international organizations, once again confirming that the choice of the people of Armenia to live in a democratic state is irreversible.

In September 2023, the Government of Armenia and the Armenian society had to mobilize all resources to address the humanitarian consequences of the ethnic cleansing and forcible displacement of 115,000 people, the entire indigenous population of Nagorno-Karabakh.
Although the above-mentioned developments have greatly impacted progress towards the achievement of the SDGs, Armenia – based on its strong democratic institutions – has proved resilient, showing that even in times of multiple crises it is possible to deliver progress and build back better in an extremely fragile environment.

During the review period, Armenia embarked on a comprehensive set of systemic reforms, as reflected in the Government Action Plan for 2021–2026 and the Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050. Despite the humanitarian crises and emergencies Armenia has been going through since 2020, a review of the indicators in comparison to the previous Voluntary National Review (VNR) has highlighted many positive changes in various sectors between 2020 and 2023.

During recent years, the economy of Armenia has been steadily growing, with up to double-digit gross domestic product (GDP) growth (12.6 percent in 2022), lifting hundreds of thousands of citizens above the poverty line. Thanks to the established rules of free market economy, strong macroeconomic governance and effective solutions, the financial system in Armenia has remained stable and has not suffered setbacks. The growth of the real GDP and the reduction of the unemployment rate are both indicators of economic recovery, while increases in the contributions of taxes to the state budget signal greater fiscal health.

During the past four years in Armenia, more new roads have been built than within the previous 30 years, and most community roads have been renovated, with tremendous positive impact on the mobility of people and goods within the country while also boosting international transit capabilities.

Transitioning to greener and more sustainable energy is among the priorities of the Government of Armenia. Investments in a renewable energy system – with the ambitious goal of increasing the share of solar energy production to at least 15 percent or 1.8 billion kWh by 2030 – have contributed to the acceleration of the green energy transition in Armenia to ensure energy independence, security and climate justice for all. The refurbishment and overhaul of the country’s nuclear power plant, in conformity with international nuclear safety standards, has helped to project the steady growth of the energy sector.

The steadfast implementation of ambitious institutional reforms in the judiciary, social protection and education sectors and the country’s uncompromising fight against corruption have further strengthened the trust of the society towards public institutions.
Reports from various international organizations have referred to the results of the implemented reforms. According to the report “Corruption Perceptions Index in the Republic of Armenia (2021)”, published by the Transparency International anti-corruption centre, Armenia received 49 points, same as in the previous year. This shows steady progress, as Armenia now sits at No. 58 among 180 countries, as compared to No. 60 in 2020 and No. 77 in 2019.

Armenia was included among the 25 countries that recorded significant improvement in the corruption perception index over the past decade. The reforms also have contributed to the strengthening of democracy in Armenia, as evidenced by the fact that Armenia is a leader in the Democracy and Good Governance section (0.73 points) in the Eastern Partnership Index 2020–2021. Armenia was the leader here in the following indicators:

- “Democratic rights, elections and political pluralism” (0.84 points)
- “Free press” (0.67 points)
- “Freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of assembly and association” (0.84 points)
- “Fight against corruption” (0.88 points)
- “Independent judiciary” (0.71 points)

Progress has been made in the social protection system, with a focus on the most vulnerable. Armenia has also been consistently promoting women's and girls’ rights, their empowerment and meaningful participation in decision-making processes in all spheres of public life. The proportion of seats held by women in the National Assembly of Armenia is 36.45 percent, and women also occupy 6 percent of the leadership positions in the community hall and make up 29 percent of the community council. In Armenia, 40 percent of employees in information and communication technologies and innovative start-ups are women, double the international average of 20 percent. According to data from the first semester of 2022, 43 percent of people working in the information technology field in Armenia were women, up from 40 percent in 2021.
With a strong belief that sustainable development can be achieved only on the firm bedrock of protection of fundamental human rights, strengthening of democratic institutions, promoting and peace in society and within the region, Armenia promotes and takes firm steps to realize the vision of achieving comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region. To this end and among numerous initiatives, the Republic of Armenia has presented the Crossroads of Peace initiative, a major regional connectivity project for building economic interlinkages among the regional countries and beyond while serving as a major catalyst for peace.

Based on the above-mentioned conclusions, the main messages of the third VNR for Armenia are that a strong democratic state with human rights and rule of law at its heart is a major prerequisite for ensuring the resilience of the state and the society against multiple challenges and crises. This VNR reflects not only the outcomes of the SDG implementation in the country but also illustrates the interconnectedness and interdependence of the humanitarian–development–peace nexus for building back better and achieving sustainable development.

The country’s further objective is to continue consistent efforts towards the effective implementation of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development based on the development priorities of the country. Armenia also will advocate for transformative measures and revitalized multilateral action in order to strengthen preventive mechanisms, advance human rights, promote gender equality, accelerate the implementation of the SDGs and prepare for post-2030 actions, which should be anchored in a people-centred, human-rights-based and inclusive approach.
Report Methodology and Drafting Process

Institutional arrangements

Throughout the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, Armenia has adopted a nationally owned approach by engaging and designing institutional arrangements with multi-stakeholder participation. Back in 2015, the Council of Sustainable Development Goals was established in Armenia, vested with the mandate of coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the SDGs and their nationalization process.

The Council envisaged broad multistakeholder participation from government representatives, the United Nations country team in Armenia, development partners, civil society and academia – with a view to contributing to the planning and implementation of relevant programmes on the SDGs.

In addition, with the signing of the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Armenia (for 2021–2025) in 2021, the Government and the United Nations outlined eight outcomes (priority areas) to work on within the five years of the UNSDCF (Figure 1).


In addition, with the signing of the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Armenia (for 2021–2025) in 2021, the Government and the United Nations outlined eight outcomes (priority areas) to work on within the five years of the UNSDCF (Figure 1).
Dedicated results groups were established to help achieve these outcomes by taking on the responsibility for the design, implementation and monitoring of the UNSDCF priority areas.

A significant milestone was reached in November 2023, with the Government of Armenia and the United Nations country team formally launching the UNSDCF Joint Steering Committee (JSC). This high-level committee, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia and the United Nations Resident Coordinator, brought together representatives from line ministries and heads of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. As the highest governing body of the UNSDCF, the Joint Steering Committee assumed the crucial role of ensuring the strategic oversight and direction of the United Nations central strategic framework.

The Committee endorsed a revamped UNSDCF governance architecture with two key objectives. First, it placed heightened attention and oversight on the eight UNSDCF outcomes to strengthen cohesion and identify opportunities for programming. Second, it invited Government representation and active engagement across the three tiers of UNSDCF governance, as illustrated in Figure 2.

**TIER 1: Executive Level**
- **Joint Steering Committee Co-Chaired by Deputy PM and UNRC**
- **Composition:** UN Country Team, Deputy Ministers, and Development Partners (upon invitation)
- **Secretariat:** MFA and RCO
- **Frequency of Meetings:** Annual

**TIER 2: Strategic Level**
- **Co-Chaired by MFA and UNRCO**
- **Composition:** UN Head of Agencies and Deputy Ministers
- **Secretariat:** RCO
- **Frequency of Meetings:** Semi-Annual

**TIER 3: Programmatic Level**
- **Composition:** 8 UN Outcome Leads, Members and Ministry Technical Advisers / Focal points
- **Secretariat:** Outcome Lead Agencies with support of RCO
- **Frequency of Meetings:** Quarterly

- **UN and GOA:** Outcome 1 on Health
- **UN and GOA:** Outcome 2 on Social Protection
- **UN and GOA:** Outcome 3 on Education
- **UN and GOA:** Outcome 4 on Economy
- **UN and GOA:** Outcome 5 on Environment
- **UN and GOA:** Outcome 6 on Governance
- **UN and GOA:** Outcome 7 on Data and SDG Financing
- **UN and GOA:** Outcome 8 on Gender Equality

Figure 2. Three-tier governance structure of the 2021–2025 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Armenia
Following the decisions made by the JSC, a significant restructuring occurred within all eight UNSDCF outcome groups. Notably, each group was reformed, with shared leadership and representation from both the United Nations and Government officials, highlighting a significant shift towards national leadership and unprecedented Government involvement. This transformation was aimed at reinforcing the commitment to mutual accountability, transparency and partnership in advancing the sustainable development agenda in Armenia.

Since the inception of the 2030 Agenda, the overreaching objectives of sustainable development, outlined in five-year programmes of action of the Government of Armenia, have been in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and its targets and indicators. Accordingly, the annual programmes of action of every line ministry of Armenia have been elaborated with a specific emphasis on incorporating the SDGs. The SDG alignment of the Government programmes of action also has contributed to the tracking and assessing of overall progress on SDG implementation.

Over the years, the academic circles in Armenia have become more engaged in the research on the Sustainable Development Goals and the elaboration of strategies for their implementation. A Sustainable Development Centre has been established in the Yerevan State University, with the objective of supporting the Government’s efforts to implement SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 13, SDG 14 and SDG 15 at national and local levels.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Chair on Education for Sustainable Development, operating in the Centre for Ecological-Noosphere Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, had a significant contribution in the training of specialists in the sphere of environmental protection and natural resources management.

The Acopian Center for the Environment, operating at the American University of Armenia, promotes the protection and restoration of the natural environment through research, education and community outreach. The Acopian Center’s areas of interest include environmental policies, human-made and natural environments, sustainable natural resource management, information technology and the natural habitat.
Data collection and stakeholder engagement

Within the process of preparing the third VNR, the Government of Armenia has adopted the whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach. Initially, the VNR preparation team collected and analysed the information on SDG implementation in the country from the relevant line ministries and elaborated the main storyline and structure of the VNR, which was then discussed with a wide range of stakeholders during the first multistakeholder VNR consultations, held 4 December 2023, with a view to validating and gathering additional information on SDG implementation in Armenia and endorsing the VNR storyline and structure.

The primary sources of information included data provided by line ministries, the Statistical Committee of Armenia, reports and research from civil society organizations and academia, and contributions from development partners and the private sector.

During the months that followed, the VNR preparation team continued drafting the report, considering the findings and feedback from the first multistakeholder consultations, gathering additional information and conducting thematic discussions and interviews.

On 14 February 2024, the Government of Armenia organized the second multistakeholder consultations on SDG implementation in Armenia to analyse what worked best and what challenges appeared within the reporting period. The consultations were aimed at identifying the perspective of non-governmental stakeholders on post-VNR actions to accelerate SDG implementation and ensure sustainable development in Armenia.

Finally, the third multistakeholder consultations on SDG implementation in Armenia were held on 5 June 2024 to present the final VNR for stakeholder consideration, with a view to validating its findings prior to its final approval and presentation at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.
Methodology

This third VNR for Armenia was developed using a combination of several methods, including desk research, participatory planning, group discussions and interviews. Throughout the preparation process of the report, a three-tier observation method was chosen to analyse the SDG implementation in Armenia.

Tier 1: Reports on SDG implementation. This tier entailed the gathering and in-depth analysis of relevant regulatory reforms, institutional arrangements and practical actions towards achieving the SDGs in Armenia. The main providers of this information were line ministries, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Armenia.

Tier 2: Quantitative data analysis. This tier involved the statistical analysis of progress and regress in the process of SDG implementation in Armenia. The data included reports and indexes generated by relevant international organizations, the National Statistical Committee and local civil society organizations. In addition, supplementary data analysis was conducted with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Leave No One Behind team to provide insights into which groups are further ahead and which are further behind in various SDG indicators and where the biggest gaps are found in terms of the access to opportunities or the prevalence of barriers between the furthest behind and the furthest ahead groups in Armenia.

Tier 3: Multistakeholder engagement. Throughout the three multistakeholder discussions, questionnaires were tailored to gain the perspectives and feedback of non-governmental stakeholders (including civil society organizations, academia, the private sector and the media) and to validate the results of the first two-tier observations.
CHAPTER ONE: HUMANITARIAN ACTION
Overview of the evolving humanitarian situation since the second VNR in June 2020

Since the submission of the previous Voluntary National Review in 2020, Armenia has encountered several unprecedented challenges that have resulted in serious humanitarian consequences. From the beginning of 2020, the rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and the introduction of several restrictive and preventive measures globally and in Armenia put the economy and labour market in peril.

As a result of those challenges, the annual growth rate of real GDP per capita* (SDG 8.1.1) dropped by 6.7 percent in 2020 compared to 2019, indicating overall economic deterioration in Armenia. The annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person (SDG 8.2.1) dropped in 2020 by 5 percent, and per the available data increased by 2.3 percent in 2021. The level of involvement in education decreased from 3.3 to 3.1 points between 2019 and 2020, while the country’s health care system was operating under a tremendous pressure to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic.

Since the first day, the Government of Armenia undertook a number of measures to combat the spread of COVID-19 and to mitigate and control its devastating consequences. Overall, 25 emergency programmes were designed to support the most vulnerable and to mitigate deterioration in key sectors of the economy affected by the pandemic. Half of the assistance programmes continued to be implemented during 2021. In general, more than USD 415 324 188 of financial resources were allocated in 2020 and 2021 within the framework of the mentioned programmes.

* Real GDP per Capita provides a more accurate representation of economic growth because it excludes the impact of rising prices.
With access to various global suppliers, among other partners, the United Nations agencies have supported the Government of Armenia in securing medical equipment and personal protective equipment for medical staff and the population at large. For example, the Ministry of Health benefited from ventilators, personal protective equipment and other medical equipment worth USD 1.5 million, along with integrated capacity-building and preparedness improvement of hospitals and medical professionals in small cities and communities. To accelerate the digital delivery of education, agencies joined efforts to develop 400 online lessons, some of which included Armenian sign language interpretation. About 300 families were identified and provided with tablets to ensure their access to education during the online classes.

While the world was struggling to overcome the consequences of the global pandemic, and regardless of the call of United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres for a global ceasefire, Armenia had to face yet another major calamity resulting from the war of aggression of Azerbaijan against people of Nagorno-Karabakh in autumn 2020. This lasted for 44 days and claimed thousands of lives, including scores of civilians, while prompting the major flow of more than 90,000 refugees to Armenia, forcibly displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh. Among them, 88 percent were women and children.

An emergency response was initiated in 2020 to provide humanitarian assistance to the war-affected people of Nagorno-Karabakh and communities in Armenia to ensure the continuity of education process for 11,500 forcibly displaced school-age children from Nagorno-Karabakh in secondary schools of Armenia. Armenia also has provided free medical care and medicine to the people affected by the war. To ensure the sustainable livelihoods of the refugees forcibly displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh, two major employment programmes were initiated to provide the refugees with professional training, upskilling and reskilling to facilitate their integration into the labour market. Overall, the Government had allocated USD 660,948,023 to mitigate the humanitarian needs of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh.

At the same time, the efforts of the Government were multiplied with the valuable support of civil society organizations and volunteers, providing critical on-the-ground assistance. They helped distribute aid, offer psychological support and organize community activities to foster resilience and solidarity among the displaced and affected populations.

While Armenia was trying to overcome the hardships of the 44-day war, new
acts of aggression by Azerbaijan and occupation of the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia in 2021 and 2022 resulted in the separation of communities, scores of internally displaced persons, risks to safety and security, and infringement upon the fundamental human rights of the border population and their livelihoods, adding to the already dire humanitarian situation in the country. The Government undertook accelerated actions to promote the equitable socioeconomic development of border communities and increase their resilience to emergencies.

In September 2023, with its already strained and limited resources, Armenia had to face the worst refugee crisis the country had seen during independence, caused by the 10-month-long blockade and the following ethnic cleansing in Nagorno-Karabakh. As a result of the latter, more than 115,000 forcibly displaced refugees fled to Armenia in just a few days.

Initial assessments recorded that refugees had humanitarian needs caused by the unprecedented forced displacement, with most of them arrived with few belongings and requiring emergency assistance, including food, water, blankets, bedding materials, medical assistance, mental health and psychosocial support, and shelter in the immediate term.
Evelina, her three children – 10-year-old Eva, 8-year-old Elena and 3-year-old Hrachik – and her mother-in-law have settled in the city of Ijevan in northern Armenia. Evelina’s husband, Arthur, had already passed away. Without a car of their own, their journey to Armenia was challenging.

“We got into our neighbour’s car,” Evelina recalls. “I had kept a small reserve of gasoline for a rainy day. I handed it over to our neighbour, emphasizing the urgency of finding my son, who had been in the field when it all began. I kept calling out his name as we continued our frantic search until we reached the neighbouring village.

Evelina was told that children from the kindergarten were sheltering in one of the village’s basements.


Evelina cannot recall the details of how they made their way to Armenia.

“There was a single available seat in the car of one of our relatives, so we placed my mother-in-law in that car,” she says. “There was another seat available in my brother-in-law’s car. Despite the tears and reluctance of my two daughters to go without me, I convinced them to share that one. My son and I went in one car, and then another, and slowly inched forward.

Three days and four different cars later, the family was reunited in Goris.

After everything that they have endured, Evelina says she sometimes struggles to stay hopeful.

“I find myself occasionally sinking into a state of depression,” she says, “but then I look at our three children and say to myself, ‘Evelina, you must rally your spirits; you have to believe so that your children can too.’
Children constituted 31 percent of the total refugee population. Considering the ten-month-long blockade of Lachin corridor – the only lifeline connecting Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia – children have had reduced access to food and medicine, and many arrived hungry, sick, scared and traumatized, having left their homes and communities. As access to education in Nagorno-Karabakh was disrupted, there was an urgent need for immediate action towards resuming the proper education of 17,300 schoolchildren and 5,675 university students. As of 31 December 2023, all the students from Nagorno-Karabakh have continued their education in schools in every region of Armenia and the capital, Yerevan. Additionally, more than 3,900 students have qualified for state scholarships for technical, vocational and higher education institutions for the academic year 2023–2024, which was key to ensuring the continuity of their education. As of May 2024, more than 80,000 displaced individuals have been registered in primary health care institutions.

Eleven-year-old Gor came to Verishen with his mother, father, sister and younger brother and settled in his maternal grandparents’ house.

“It’s good,” said Gor’s mother, Shushanik. “Children were a bit used to this house; they would often spend their summers here. We had lost our home already three times.”

The family now faces a new challenge – adapting to a new environment and different school and making new friends once more.

“I really miss my school there, my friends, my music school, and my teachers,” Gor says.

He carried his clarinet with him – the sole memento from his former musical school.

“When I grow up, I will become a construction worker,” Gor says. “I will build a new home for us. Two stories high, just like the one we had.”
Since crossing the Kornidzor checkpoint, 80 000 refugees who requested support for immediate shelter were accommodated in state-provided shelters in various regions of the country. They also have been provided with core relief items. For this purpose, around USD 11 million was allocated to regional administrations.

On 26 October 2023, the Government adopted a decision granting temporary protection status to persons forcibly displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh, making the social protection mechanisms established by the country’s legislation available for refugees. The Government introduced simplified procedures for assigning pensions and other social benefits to ensure their full and swift inclusion into these systems. As of May 2024, pensions for more than 26 500 persons were approved and paid.

In addition to these challenges, Armenia also has grappled with a substantial influx of migrants from the Russian Federation since February 2022. More than 250 000 Russian citizens temporarily migrated to Armenia, placing additional strain on all sectors of the country’s institutions, including health care, education, migration and banking. However, this influx also brought an additional flow of financial resources, with a positive impact on the economy of Armenia.

At the time of finalizing the third VNR for submission, yet another unprecedented climate calamity has occurred. As a result of torrential rainfall on 27–28 May 2024, severe flooding and landslides affected several communities in the Lori and Tavush regions of Armenia. The Debed, Aghstev and Tashir rivers flooded nine urban and 28 rural settlements in those regions, causing significant damage to critical civilian infrastructure, including railways, highways, bridges, electricity grids, residential areas and livelihoods and demonstrating once again the worrying pattern, driven by the changing climate, that demands immediate and concerted action. The calamity also caused a high risk of landslides in the affected regions.
Refugee Response Plan

In early October 2023, the Armenia was developed by the Government of Armenia and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in coordination with United Nations agencies, other international donors, development partners and civil society. The plan aimed at the provision of protection and assistance for more than 115,000 refugees and support for 95,000 in the host population. Around 60 organizations participated in the refugee response plan, with a joint humanitarian funding appeal of the Government and UNHCR of USD 97 million. At the end of March 2024, the refugee response plan was around 50 percent funded, and more than 100 organizations contributed to the response. The plan showcased a remarkable interagency and coordinated effort, formulated through extensive consultations with diverse stakeholders, including the United Nations, international non-governmental organizations, the private sector, national and local civil society organizations, and refugee-led organizations.

A notable characteristic lies in the synchronization between the humanitarian objectives of the international community and the priorities set forth by the Government of Armenia. As delineated in both the 1951 Convention and the Global Compact on Refugees, the fundamental duty of protecting and assisting refugees rests on national governments, which bear the ultimate obligation for their well-being. UNHCR and stakeholders extended their support in this endeavour, upholding the principles of solidarity and responsibility-sharing.

The has been activated in support of the Government’s efforts, with an established interagency coordination working group. The Refugee Coordination Forum was established as the key coordination body of the humanitarian and
development partners, within the framework of the Refugee Coordination Model.

Headed by the and working closely with the UNHCR, the Refugee Coordination Forum, which comprised relevant representatives of the Government, civil society organizations and United Nations agencies, aimed to strengthen the coordination of partners with the Government and civil society, providing strategic guidance for the identification and implementation of relevant interventions and ensuring preparedness and contingency planning. The Refugee Coordination Forum meets regularly to discuss key strategic topics and facilitate related dialogue among key stakeholders.

Key achievements under the Refugee Response Plan (October 2023 to March 2024) include more than 115,000 individuals reached with non-food items and/or winter-specific items, more than 95,000 individuals given in-kind food assistance, more than 11,000 primary health consultations and 82,900 mental health and psychosocial support consultations conducted, and more than 17,000 individuals benefited from legal support services.

Additionally, more than 22,000 children accessed child-friendly and other safe spaces, more than 1,000 individuals accessed gender-based violence services in safe spaces, and more than 56,000 individuals benefited from interventions related to livelihoods, income generation and economic inclusion. Humanitarian partners also reached 21,000 refugees in support of the Government rent and utilities cash programme, and 51,000 individuals benefited from multipurpose vouchers.

Moreover, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs created the “Become a Volunteer” platform to facilitate government efforts in welcoming and registering refugees. More than 800 volunteers of the platform and an additional 500 volunteers from host communities provided essential services – including first aid, psychological counselling and on-the-spot registration at humanitarian stations – and contributed to strengthening community bonds and the sense of collective resilience.

As the emergency phase moves towards the next - mid- to longer-term response, the transition plan, currently under discussion, presents an overview of how the refugee response will align with the national development plans and priorities of the Government of Armenia, offering a framework for strengthening of national systems, addressing particularly, residual humanitarian and development
needs of the refugees. The transition plan emphasizes the need for continued international solidarity and close coordination to ensure a smooth evolution from emergency to sustainable inclusion.

In conclusion, the Refugee Response Plan and the Transition plan are a result of the strong collaboration among the Government, Refugee Coordination Forum partners and the United Nations country team – exemplifying how a whole-of-society approach, combined with international solidarity and responsibility-sharing, can empower countries of asylum to respond effectively while overcoming their own challenges and ensuring that no one is left behind.
CHAPTER TWO:
DEVELOPMENT
Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050

Presented in 2020 by the Prime Minister of Armenia, the Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050 has become the landmark document for ensuring sustainable development in the country. The ambitious objective of the Strategy is to transform Armenia into a country of strong democracy and rule of law and to create a safe and enabling environment for the development of human capital and the realization of fundamental human rights, including social and economic rights.

The key drivers for the realization of this objective are talented people, including creative women and youth. Therefore, this Strategy envisages a set of actions aimed at ensuring quality education, promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, and ensuring people-centred and human-rights-based socioeconomic development.

The Strategy also complements the vision of economic development and investment attraction through supporting micro, small and medium enterprises and cooperatives and establishing the rules of free market economy, active inflation targeting, fiscal responsibility and effective oversight.
One of the most important prerequisites for the economic development of Armenia is the improvement of the business and investment environment. To achieve this goal, the Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050 outlined the principles of creating simple, transparent and low-cost state regulations, services and administrative procedures, as well as equal competitive conditions, and developed market infrastructures for establishing and developing business in Armenia.

Within the next 10 years, the country also envisages the promotion of sustainable, innovative and high-value agriculture in harmony with the environment – ensuring the care of natural resources, producing organic food and creating conditions for the well-being of people living in rural areas.

The Strategy sets out the main objectives of the green agenda in Armenia through further reforms in effective water resources management, introducing environmental impact assessment systems, the improvement of atmospheric air protection systems, strengthening the environmental monitoring systems, and optimizing the system of specially protected nature areas and forests.

Once of the main priorities and objectives of the Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050 is also the “Digitalization, which aims at promoting the economic, industrial and scientific-educational development of Armenia and ensuring the contribution of high-value scientific and technological output to the economic and social development of Armenia and beyond.

Thus, the Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050 and the various sectoral strategies impact the exponential delivery of the country’s commitments for all SDGs and their targets while also envisaging the development perspective of the country after 2030.
### Mega goals 2030

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<td>SDG 16</td>
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<td>Mega goal 7</td>
<td>Mass export of manufactured production</td>
<td>SDG 8 9 10</td>
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<td>Mega goal 8</td>
<td>Clean and green Armenia</td>
<td>SDG 7 13 15</td>
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<td>Mega goal 9</td>
<td>Rational territorial development</td>
<td>SDG 11 2 10</td>
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<td>Mega goal 10</td>
<td>Mass repatriation and integration</td>
<td>SDG 10 4 8 17</td>
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<td>Mega goal 11</td>
<td>Globally connected Armenia</td>
<td>SDG 9 11</td>
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<td>Mega goal 12</td>
<td>Productive and responsible farming</td>
<td>SDG 2 6 11 12</td>
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<td>Mega goal 13</td>
<td>Renewable energy accessible to public</td>
<td>SDG 7 13 15</td>
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<td>Mega goal 14</td>
<td>Business-attractive Armenia</td>
<td>SDG 8 9 16 17</td>
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<td>Mega goal 15</td>
<td>Knowledge-based (non-material) Armenia</td>
<td>SDG 4 8 9</td>
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<td>Mega goal 16</td>
<td>Recognized, respected and hospitable Armenia</td>
<td>SDG 4 9 16</td>
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Improving the quality of life and the development of human capital

A middle-income LLDC with limited natural resources and an economy in transition, Armenia has been undertaking systemic actions to combat poverty, promote food security, stimulate human capital development and provide for economic development in harmony with nature and the environment.

To achieve tangible and sustainable outcomes in this endeavour, the country’s objective was to address the entire spectrum of issues, including creating opportunities for self-fulfilment, capacity-building, leveraging professional and social capital, and enhancing social resilience as a vital means of adapting to a changing environment and seizing development opportunities.

For this purpose, a new was developed in Armenia that enables the application of specific methods to identify the typology of socially vulnerable groups and address their needs based on their unique characteristics. Based on the analysis of the system, the Government has elaborated a number of specific programmes to address the essential and life-saving needs of the most vulnerable and create a favourable environment for their sustainable livelihood.

One of the most crucial initiatives in this regard is the establishment of the Social Emergency Support system, which offers rapid response and social protection in critical situations. The system is operated through collaboration with local authorities, civil society organizations and individuals who have expressed willingness to assist the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in comprehensively mapping the essential needs of vulnerable groups in every region and community of Armenia and provide emergency and long-term assistance. This programme has allowed for the effective assessing of the primary needs of refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh and the undertaking of immediate steps to address them.

The new system calculated that in order to completely eliminate extreme poverty in Armenia, the needs to provide tailored assistance to 63,666 families, including the families forcibly displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh.
In addition to the Social Emergency Response System, a key objective of the Government is the conceptual transformation of the social protection policy in the country from social dependency to social graduation. This process comprises several important and interconnected components aimed at facilitating systemic transition and is implemented in accordance with the 2020–2026 Strategy on Labour and Social Protection.

One of the examples of the policy of transition is the Promoting Measures of Social Inclusion and Self-Sufficiency in Armenia programme (measured by national SDG Indicator 1.3.1), which offers an opportunity for the recipients of family allowances and beneficiaries of other social support programmes to access grant funding and establish their own enterprises. Currently, the programme is being implemented in five regions of Armenia. It is noteworthy that, alongside the funding, the beneficiaries of the programme also receive necessary capacity-building and training for effective entrepreneurship. Since its launch, 650 beneficiaries have participated in various trainings, and 305 of them have received grants.

After successfully completing the Promoting Measures of Social Inclusion and Self-Sufficiency in Armenia programme, one of its beneficiaries has established a greenhouse economy. His family had a semi-repaired greenhouse that they could not operate for many years due to financial difficulties. The programme enabled the family to finish the construction of the greenhouse and launch its operation. Now as self-sufficient economy, the family has expressed its willingness to be excluded from national register of citizens receiving social protection.

Despite the Government’s efforts, the support of the development partners, including the United Nations, has been indispensable for the betterment of the society’s livelihood. One such example is “The Strategy of the Main Directions Ensuring Economic Development in Agricultural Sector of the Republic of Armenia for 2020–2030, which outlines the key priorities of the agricultural policy of the country. This ten-year strategy envisions a significant number of small and medium-sized enterprises producing competitive, high-quality agricultural products, supported by cutting-edge digital and agricultural technologies, and offering quality employment to the rural population in general and to the country’s youth in particular.
In line with SDG 1 targets, the collaborative programmes implemented with the United Nations have played a crucial role in sustaining the income levels and socioeconomic resilience of approximately 300,000 individuals (53 percent of them women) throughout the protracted crisis. In all, 250,000 people have restored and strengthened their livelihoods through access to financial and non-financial assets, renovation and rehabilitation of local infrastructure (including medical facilities, water infrastructure, sanitation facilities in schools, street lighting systems and vocational training facilities) and access to green energy.

Thanks to these reforms, the overall unemployment rate in Armenia (SDG 8.5) in years 2020 to 2022 has in fact decreased, from 18.2 percent in 2020 to 13.5 percent in 2022, and the percentage of the population living below the national poverty line (SDG 1.2.1) from 2019 to 2022 decreased from 1.1 percent to 0.8 percent, despite all of the challenges and crises that were ongoing during the same period.

In 2021, the real GDP per capita growth rate was 7.5 percent, and in real terms it exceeded the 2019 amount. The years 2022 and 2023 have been phenomenal, since in 2022 the real GDP per capita growth rate was 50.2 percent and in 2023 24.3 percent.
The proportion of the population living below the international poverty line in Armenia dropped from 1.1 percent in 2019 to 0.4 percent in 2020 (SDG 1.1.1). However, we see a slight increase in 2021 and 2022 to 0.5 percent and 0.8 percent, respectively, which was the result of the evolving humanitarian crisis. The significant economic growth in Armenia in recent years contributed to the reduction in the poverty rate from 27 percent to 24.8 percent from 2021 to 2022. From 2020 to 2022, the percentage of families receiving social support due to poverty (national SDG Indicator 1.3.1.f) also dropped, from 3.32 percent to 2.85 percent.

In addition, from 2020 to 2022, there was a noticeable change in the patterns of multidimensional poverty, impacting different demographic groups in multiple ways. Throughout the given period, children have constantly been shown as the group that is most impacted, but there has been a minor decline in the rates. Adults, males and females exhibit shifts in poverty rates.

In general, there has been a gradual decrease in poverty among all groups of people, indicating an improvement in the various factors that contribute to multidimensional poverty.
In addition, since 2019, the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity (SDG 2.1.2) in the population of Armenia has decreased, from 8.3 percent in 2019 to 7.1 percent in 2022, while the prevalence of child malnutrition decreased from 8.5 percent to 7.5 percent.

It is noteworthy that the above-mentioned actions have been carried out amid the continuously evolving humanitarian crises, which put an additional strain on the sustainable development path of Armenia. The Government and development partners were periodically forced to reprioritize and reallocate their resources and efforts towards mitigating and addressing the devastating humanitarian situation in the country while also concentrating efforts towards creating solid social protection systems, tailoring strategies for economic development, and promoting human capital.
Education as an enabler of human capital development

Armenia believes that an important prerequisite for human capital development is ensuring quality, equitable and inclusive education and an environment for self-fulfilment for all, which affects many groups in the larger society. To this end, Armenia has undertaken a wide range of systemic, legal and practical reforms in education in line with SDG 4 and its targets.

The statistical data illustrate that the allocation of resources to education has registered more than 25 percent growth during the past four years. In 2024, the education budget was more than 38 percent higher than in 2023, demonstrating the value placed on education as a cornerstone of state development.

In this context, the State Education Development Programme of the Republic of Armenia 2030, adopted in 2022, has marked a crucial milestone in the country’s efforts for structural transformation in the education sphere. The overarching objective of the programme is to cultivate an efficient and globally competitive educational system, geared towards contributing to the multidimensional development of Armenia. It aims to provide all individuals with access to quality education (regardless of their situation), foster a circle of competitive professionals, encourage active civic engagement for the exercise of rights and responsibilities, and promote a culture of peace and non-discrimination.

The programme also widely addresses vocational education and training and attaches key emphasis to lifelong learning and opportunities for upskilling and reskilling, with a view to ensuring the transition from school to work and the provision of skills in line with labour market needs, thus reducing youth unemployment and hence targeting advancement per SDG Indicator 4.3.1. Since the adaptation of the programme, progress has been made with the review of legislation covering education levels; both a new vocational education and training law and a new law on higher education and science have been endorsed.
A significant milestone in educational reform was the establishment of the general education benchmark system, which has redefined and revised educational objectives across the general education cycle and has contributed to advancement of Target 4.1 of the SDGs. The curricula reform was initiated with SDG Target 4.7 at its core, aiming to ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development. The paramount significance of this reform lies in the transition from knowledge-based education to competency-based education. This conceptual shift impacts teaching and learning processes, transforms evaluation and assessment methods, provides students with a better understanding of the practical applications of knowledge, and, most importantly, allows for the development of individualized educational trajectories.

During the reporting period, the Government has continued the reforms in higher education and research launched in 2018, the main objective of which is to optimize the education and research sectors, promote and modernize scientific centres and infrastructures, increase financing efficiency and ensure the quality of education in line with international standards. One of the latest significant reforms has been the establishment of the Higher Education and Science Committee by merging three governmental agencies – the Science Committee, the Higher Attestation Committee and the Department for Higher and Postgraduate Professional Education of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia. The new structure will enable the alignment of the policies of higher education, postgraduate education and research and the building of stronger links among universities and research institutions.

Since 2021, the Government of Armenia has begun a targeted policy in the field of research and technology that involves an essential increase in the volume of state funding. In 2023, the volume of state funding of science and technology increased, reaching approximately 0.41 percent of the GDP, compared to 0.28 percent in 2021. This tendency will continue until 1 percent of the GDP is reached in the coming years.
One of the significant initiatives recently launched by the Government of Armenia is the programme to establish the Academic City, which aims to ensure coherence and synergy among education, research and industry. New standards of education and research will be introduced within the Academic City to meet the needs of business entities. The city will involve a set of newly established infrastructures, providing space for the practical application of knowledge acquired in various fields.

A significant milestone was the implementation of the voluntary certification of teachers throughout the country (SDG 4.c). The number of teachers who passed voluntary certification in the field of general education doubled in 2023 compared to the previous year, and 94.5 percent of teachers who passed the voluntary certification in 2021–2023 receive salary at an increased rate, plus bonus. Both the training and attestation were important steps in assessing the existing teaching resources and defining the subsequent steps in this direction. It is anticipated that within the next four years, the secondary education system will undergo a complete transition.

In addition, the new programme complements the Work Armenia 2023 initiative of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, which is aimed at strengthening the links among education and the labour market (aligned with SDG 4.4). The key focus is to increase labour force participation among women, young people and the rural population.
From 2019 to 2022, the gross enrolment ratio in education demonstrated several trends throughout the various levels of education. At both the primary and secondary levels, enrolment rates for general education continue to be high, and there has been a rise recorded in both of these levels – in general primary, from 92.9% to 93.9%, and in basic from 90% to 91.1%. Additionally, there have been improvements in the enrolment ratio for both middle vocational and postgraduate (first stage) levels – from 11.7% to 15.3% and from 52.2% to 53.4%, respectively.

It should be noted that the indicators of gross enrolment ratio in education have been recorded taking into account the period of restrictions within the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, when the involvement in education decreased from 3.3 to 3.1 points, as well as amid the two episodes of major influx of refugees forcibly displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh in 2020 and 2023.

SDG Target 4.c aims to substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers. The ratios of pupil-trained teachers and pupil-qualified teachers are directly related to this target. From 2019 to 2022, over the four consecutive years, the percentage of trained teachers increased in all levels from primary to middle.

At the primary level, from 2019 to 2022, the prevalence of trained teachers increased from 73.62% to 81.28%.
At the middle school level, the proportion increased from 75.12 percent in 2019 to 81.29 percent in 2022. At the high school level, the percentage increased from 75.39 percent in 2019 to 83 percent in 2022. The average increase among all levels is approximately 5 percent.

Armenia also has consistently emphasized the importance of reducing nutrition vulnerability (aligned to SDG 2.1.1) in schools by the adoption of a food systems perspective on school feeding to achieve long-term gains in nutrition and broader rural development. Within the programme implemented by the Government and FAO, the key aspect is to link local farmers with school food and nutrition programmes to boost the local economy and encourage community involvement.

In addition, the Government of Armenia and the World Food Programme have been implementing a “School Feeding Programme” to provide hot and nutritious meals to more than 100,000 schoolchildren in 10 regions. In all, 86 percent of the schools in Armenia have received support in the form of renovation and kitchen equipment to improve food and hygiene conditions of canteen/kitchen facilities. More than 4,000 school staff received training in the management of school feeding and on healthy lifestyles. The programme has provided new employment (cooks and kitchen staff) opportunities for 2,500 rural women.

Another programme, the Wholegrain Wheat Value Chain programme, advocates for incorporating nutritious wholegrain products into daily diets. The programme also promotes a greener economy in Armenia by encouraging the use of climate-
sensitive technologies in bakeries, utilizing renewable solar energy to ensure cost-effective and environmentally friendly operations. Thanks to this initiative, white wheat bread products were replaced with wholegrain bread for more than 7,000 schoolchildren from 75 schools.

In addition, prioritizing science and technological education, the Government of Armenia – with effective collaboration from private-sector STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education providers such as Armath Laboratories, TUMO Centre for Creative Technologies, Generation AI and many other centres – has established a unique path of “Engineering from school to industry” for young people interested in realizing their innovative potential.

**ENGINEERING FROM SCHOOL TO INDUSTRY**

![Figure 9: Illustration of engineering from school to industry plan of Armenia](image)

Figure 9: Illustration of engineering from school to industry plan of Armenia
Fourteen-year-old Artyom has been attending TUMO Centre for two and a half years now, and he is already running his animation YouTube channel “Boghk” (boghk is the Armenian word for radish), for a year. Since he began attending the centre, Artyom has participated in workshops on animation, game development, motion graphics, drawing, music and programming.

“My thoughts always seem to be traveling,” Artyom says. “Whatever I think up, I try to make it tangible. I’m on the road to turning my dreams into reality. I am focusing my skills and bringing life to my ideas, transforming them into lively and humorous animations. With every animation, I’m not only sharing what I love, but I also try to motivate others into realizing their ideas in this endless digital world.”

Attending TUMO brought Artyom to the realization that he wants to have his own channel. He started thinking about the content, the creation of the videos, and the name. Since his animations were humorous, he wanted to think of a funny name for the channel. And that’s how “Boghk” grew.
The agenda for a green transition in Armenia

As a landlocked mountainous country, the climate of which ranges from dry subtropical to cold alpine, with four seasons, Armenia experiences particular vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, threatening the livelihoods of its people and jeopardizing biodiversity. Armenia faces a daunting reality: a 1.2 °C temperature increase and a 20 percent surge in extreme weather events over the past century. To combat these challenges, communities must adapt. Initiatives such as crop diversification, water management improvements and enhanced meteorological forecasting are crucial.

Given the geographic location of the country and the lack of industrial-scale fossil fuel resources, key priorities for Armenia to ensure energy independence and security include the development and expansion of economically viable and technically available renewable energy sources, the further development of nuclear energy and the promotion of energy efficiency.

For this purpose, Armenia has elaborated a comprehensive agenda for green transition, in line with its international obligations and national priorities. The main dimensions of the green transformation agenda are climate change mitigation, green energy, water resource management and quality, air quality, waste management, biodiversity conservation and reduction of excessive use of chemicals and elimination of ozone-depleting substances.
Throughout the reporting period, significant strides were made in implementing legal and institutional reforms aimed at bolstering environmental protection efforts. These reforms were designed to enhance water resource management by refining the Water Code and water usage systems, fortifying the environmental impact assessment framework through the enactment of new legislation and regulations, and bolstering the capacity of relevant institutional entities. Measures were taken to bolster atmospheric air protection by adopting new laws and legislative measures and implementing regulations targeting substances detrimental to the ozone layer. The environmental monitoring system was also bolstered through the acquisition of laboratory equipment, the establishment of monitoring observatories, and the deployment of measuring devices. Efforts were made to optimize the management of specially protected natural areas and forests, including the establishment of an eco-patrol service and initiatives focused on reforestation and afforestation activities.

Moreover, the Government of Armenia, in collaboration with the World Bank, the European Union, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Armenia, has inaugurated the Green Armenia platform. This initiative is dedicated to fostering the country’s journey towards sustainable development, embracing a vision of green recovery and robust growth.

Considering the importance of global efforts to combat climate change, Armenia has ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement and other related treaties. Armenia has also submitted its for 2021–2030 and is planning to present its first Biannual Transparency Report in the end of 2024. Additionally, a climate law is being developed to provide the legal basis for developing and implementing effective climate policies, mobilizing financial resources, mainstreaming climate considerations into sectorial policies, and integrating climate finance into public financial management.

In 2020–2022, Armenia also initiated the development of a new Environmental impact assessment law based on the requirements of the relevant European Union directives and the obligations set out in the Aarhus and Espoo Conventions. It should be noted that the process of drafting and circulating the new law was carried out with the participation of a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society, state administration bodies, businesses and the private sector and coupled with many public discussions.
Institutionally, Armenia has established an inter-agency Coordination Council, led by the Deputy Prime Minister, dedicated to harmonizing national climate change policies and actions to meet the country’s commitments under the Paris Agreement. Additionally, specialized working groups have been formed to effectively manage and implement activities outlined in international agreements.

As global greenhouse gas emissions are the largest contributors to global climate change, posing tremendous risks to human beings and all other forms of life on Earth, Armenia has been undertaking active measures to maintain and further reduce this trend through its Long-term Low Greenhouse Gas Emission Development Strategy 2050.

With this Strategy the Government aims to ensure a long-term agenda for climate commitments, provide early and predictable signals for local and international investors, harmonize development goals with climate actions, and systematically consider the climate mitigation possibilities across the entire economy, pursuing the transformation of existing challenges into real possibilities. One of the examples of the actions derived from the Strategy are the Government programmes aimed at transforming the agriculture sector, reducing its vulnerability to climate impacts and promoting climate-friendly agricultural practices.

### Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from agriculture (Thousand tons of CO2 equivalent)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Emissions (Thousand tons of CO2 equivalent)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1.778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>1.776</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>1.773</td>
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<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>1.771</td>
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Figure 10. Data sources – Armstat SDG dashboard

Although in general, the country contributes just 0.02 percent to the total global greenhouse gas emissions, there has been a slight but steady decrease in the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced by agriculture between 2020 and 2023.

In addition, the Law “On Amending the Law of the Republic of Armenia on Atmospheric Air Protection” was adopted in 2022 to harmonize the modern standards of air quality assessment with the ones currently operating in the country and contribute to the reduction of emissions.
The Government of Armenia has adopted and is effectively implementing the Programme on Energy Saving and Renewable Energy for 2022–2030 and its Triennial Action Plan for the first phase (2022–2024) of its implementation. The estimates for sectoral energy efficiency potential in the Programme are:

- industry: 19 thousand tonnes of oil equivalent (ktoe)
- transport: 744 ktoe
- residential: 92 ktoe
- agriculture: 34 ktoe
- service sector: 42 ktoe.

The Government of Armenia has also actively pursued measures to introduce and incentivize environmentally friendly modes of transport, fostering an environment conducive to the growth of this sector. Since 2019, initiatives such as value-added tax exemptions for the import of electric vehicles – encompassing buses, cars, motorcycles and mopeds of various sizes – and customs duties exemptions for certain electric vehicle imports have been implemented. These measures have successfully created an environment conducive to the rapid penetration of electric vehicles into the transport system of Armenia. Between 2019 and 2023, over 24 000 electric vehicles were imported into Armenia, accompanied by the installation and operation of more than 170 charging stations across all regions of the country.

As the rapid introduction of renewables is one of the viable ways of mitigating climate change, Armenia, based on its nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement, has been maintaining major attention on the introduction of renewables into the energy system. Armenia has significant solar energy potential: The average annual solar energy flow per square metre of horizontal surface is 1 720 kWh (the European average is 1 000 kWh), and one-quarter of the country’s territory is endowed with solar energy resources of 1 850 kWh/m² per year.

One of the successful examples of enhancing energy efficiency in the country is the initiative implemented by the Government of Armenia and UNDP by introducing energy efficiency retrofits in the building sector. Significant progress has been made, with 152 multi-apartment buildings and 69 public buildings, including 45 kindergartens and schools, undergoing energy efficiency retrofitting throughout Armenia. These efforts have resulted in an annual emission reduction of approximately 19 000 tCO₂, or around 380 000 tCO₂ over the projected 20-year lifespan of the interventions. This initiative has benefited approximately 46 000 people, with over 50 percent of the beneficiaries being women and girls.
However, currently, the share of solar energy in the overall energy mix of the country requires improvement to reach the ambitious objective enshrined in the Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement to achieve by 2030 an energy mix of at least 15 percent solar energy. This will require the introduction of solar energy plants of 1 000 megawatts, which can be achieved through public–private partnerships and through incentivizing the use of solar energy by the private sector and households.

One of the major steps in this direction was the introduction of the Ayg-1 solar power station, with the capacity of 200 megawatts, in the Talin community of Armenia. The project is to be implemented through a partnership between the Armenia National Interest Fund and the United Arab Emirates company MASDAR.

To incentivize the rapid introduction of solar energy, the Government has also liberalized the electricity market, allowing the private sector and individual households to install solar panels on their properties and sell the surplus of the generated energy to the national grid.

Climate change is also a cross-cutting threat that affects the water sector and requires better management of natural resources. The water sector in Armenia faces multifaceted challenges related to surface and groundwater management, water quality, irrigation, water supply and sanitation, along with its management framework. While in general, the country’s water resources are sufficient, their regional availability and seasonal fluctuation call for effective
and sustainable water resources management. This includes improved water sector infrastructure, increased storage capacity, strengthened institutional capabilities and relevant sector policies. For this purpose, several legal reforms have been implemented for better water resource management and water quality.

On 7 July 2022, the National Assembly of Armenia adopted a package of amendments to its water sector. These amendments incorporate the main principles of the European Union Directives, particularly establishing new concepts for surface water bodies, groundwater bodies, heavily modified and risky water bodies, water resource self-cleaning, vulnerability and the adaptation of water resources to climate change.

On a practical level, efforts have been made to mainstream climate change concerns in the management strategies of several spheres, for example, the Strategy for Sevan National Reserve. Overall, the environmental protection of Lake Sevan and the improvement of its governance system through ecosystem management and sustainable use is one of the key objectives of the Government, as it is the largest freshwater lake in the Caucasus region and the most significant source of freshwater, irrigation water, aquaculture and hydropower in Armenia. Its condition has a direct bearing on the region’s environmental health and on the country’s economic potential.
Armenia also continues the implementation of the objectives outlined in the 2021–2026 Programme of the Government towards creating an additional supply of water resources and an effective water flow management system, contributing to the development of self-flow irrigation water supply. The outlined objective of constructing 15 water reservoirs in Armenia will allow for the accumulation of additional water resources, increases in the efficiency of management and use, improvements in the water supply of irrigated lands, the involvement of new lands in agricultural activities, and the achievement of energy savings through replacing mechanical irrigation.

Biodiversity conservation is another important dimension for sustainable development in Armenia and a better future for the coming generations. As Armenia is located in two major biodiversity hotspots (Caucasian and Irano-Anatolian), the Government has committed to undertaking measures geared towards the improved protection of biodiversity through the review and alignment of the national legislation with international standards, the preparation of an inventory of sites, the designation of these sites and the establishment of priorities for their management, the establishment of measures required for the conservation of such sites, the establishment of a system for the monitoring of the conservation status of species, and the establishment of a mechanism to promote education and general information to the public.
In March 2022, the National Assembly adopted the Law “On amendments and additions to the Law on Fauna”. According to the amendments, the definition of “important bird area” was introduced and the authority “On establishing the criteria for the definition of important bird areas” established. The article “Authority of territorial bodies of state administration” stipulates “supporting the protection and use of specially protected areas of nature (state reserves, national parks, state sanctuaries, natural monuments), as well as important bird areas, implementing measures against poaching and illegal fishing”. Support for the protection and use of SPANs (state reserves, national parks and natural monuments) and important bird areas and the implementation of measures against poaching and illegal fishing is entrusted to local governments.

Given the country’s geography and its vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters, Armenia has also undertaken efforts towards strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters (SDG 13.1). Recent policy initiatives, such as the Disaster Risk Management Strategy of 2023–2030, focus on disaster risk identification, assessment, capacity building and monitoring, disaster response and post-disaster recovery. The overall objective of the Strategy is to ensure the safe and resilient implementation of measures aimed at reducing risks, strengthening safety, improving the technological system and developing human resources.
Also planned are the implementation of effective awareness-raising measures among citizens, the expansion of opportunities for the implementation of investment programmes in the sector, and the development of cooperation among the public and private sectors.

The Strategy, including its 2023–2026 Action Plan, also stresses the importance of voluntary involvement in emergency response efforts. The Strategy highlights the role of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports in promoting youth engagement in volunteer rescue movements and creating volunteer fire rescue squads. Efforts align with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and with such initiatives as the “Institutionalizing a Volunteer First Responder Service in Armenia (VolFire)” project, launched by the Austrian Development Agency in collaboration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs (then the Ministry of Emergency Situations). This project aims to establish volunteer fire rescue bases in 10 regions.

Another major challenge from the perspective of emergencies for Armenia is the prevalence of landmines in border areas, impeding sustainable development in a number of regions. The scale of contamination of landmines and unexploded ordnance affects four of the 11 regions in Armenia. In the regions of Gegharkunik, Syunik, Vayots Dzor and Tavush, the Centre for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise of Armenia has identified 111 confirmed hazardous areas and 25 suspected hazardous areas, with total area of 42,165,968 m².

Despite the significant progress of clearance operations, landmines and unexploded ordnance remain a challenge for the lives and livelihoods of people living in and around the contaminated areas, which prompts the national authorities to improve the social, economic, behavioural and environmental impacts of the mine action on people on the intersections of sustainable development, land release and environmental protection, a shift from defining the mine problem in narrow terms of numbers of unexploded ordnance/landmines or the total area of contaminated land to defining it in terms of the impact of unexploded ordnance/landmines on people and communities.
This concept presents a vision called “Greening Mine Action”, which includes monitoring, technical survey, clearance and land release, as well as post-clearance monitoring and field audit. At the same time, the socioeconomic impact assessment entails monitoring food security and measuring behaviour change, environmental impact and nature protection.

The results of SDG implementation within the past four years show the tremendous efforts of the Armenian Government and society towards sustainable development, with the support of development partners, which – regardless of the challenges during the same period – have resulted in major improvements and progress in many sectors of Armenia, providing for better lives, employment, human capital development, economic growth and green transition.
CHAPTER THREE: PEACE
Peace at home

Armenia believes that its sustainable development and maintenance of peace at home and within society will be based on the country’s ability to build an agile democratic country based on the rule of law and respect for human rights. Over the past four years, with the ultimate objective of creating peace at home, Armenia has been consistent in implementing its ambitious democratic reforms, which have been aimed at ensuring good governance, rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all while strengthening the judicial system and fighting against corruption.

In 2019, the new Strategy on Human Rights Protection, the Action Plan for 2020–2022 and the Second Action Plan for 2023–2025 were adopted and successfully implemented. In addition, to ensure proper public monitoring and assessment of the implementation of the Action Plan, the Government of Armenia launched the www.e-rights.am platform, which provides opportunities to:

- examine the Strategy;
- track the progress of its implementation;
- examine the reports submitted by state authorities; and
- submit comments and feedback on implementation processes.
Moreover, the website provides SDG tracking for each action implemented within the action plan, providing statistics on actions by SDGs. More than 70 subactions are related to SDG 16, and many more subactions are related to SDG 3, SDG 10 and SDG 5.

**Actions by UN SGDs (in percentage)**

- Peace, justice and strong institutions: 79%
- Good health and well being: 20%
- Reduced inequalities: 19%
- Gender equality: 13%
- Decent work and economic growth: 7%
- Quality education: 5%
- No poverty: 4%

*Figure 11. Illustrated with the data of the Ministry of Justice of Armenia*

Currently, the Second Human Rights Protection Action Plan for 2023–2025 addresses the following dimensions: right to life, prohibition of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment, right to a fair trial, ensuring equality and non-discrimination, right to health, right to freedom of assembly, right to education, right to freedom of expression, right to social security, minimum living conditions, protection of children’s rights and fostering international cooperation in the field of human rights.

In the framework of the commitments within the Strategy on Human Rights Protection, the Law “On Ensuring Equality” is being developed to strengthen the fight against discrimination and ensure legal equality for all in the country. The law envisages the equal treatment of every person and citizen, including equal opportunities, without discrimination, to exercise their rights, freedoms and duties. It defines the concept and types of discrimination, legal subjects and frameworks of legal equality and protected grounds, as well as the status, goals and principles of activities of the Legal Equality Council.
To make sure that the law is applicable within the society with its full power and on the basis of equality, the need for ensuring a strong judiciary system was inevitable. Therefore, the Government of Armenia has undertaken the comprehensive and inclusive process of developing and endorsing two major "Strategies for Judicial and Legal Reform for 2022–2026, bringing together all the relevant stakeholders of the sector (the judiciary, legal community, civil society representatives, prosecutors and international organizations). Several off-site discussions also were held in the regions of Armenia.

The Strategy envisages 12 strategic goals and 41 strategic directions, such as the digitization of judicial processes and the introduction of e-justice (which applies not only to the courts but also to the entire system of criminal justice and preliminary investigation bodies); a transitional justice toolkit; the directions of democratic institutions (in particular, the constitutional and electoral) and judicial system reforms; criminal, civil and civil proceedings; six administrative and administrative proceedings; bankruptcy; alternative dispute resolution methods; advocacy; enforcement; notary; and other areas of general development of the justice system.

The new Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes of the Republic of Armenia, adopted in 2022 and enforced in 2023, are among the most important achievements among legislative acts regulating the entire process of criminal justice in the country. Both the Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code contain numerous innovations and intricate regulations designed to address longstanding issues in the field. They are designed to improve the quality of investigations into alleged crimes, ensure the most effective process of criminal proceedings, and ensure the protection of human rights and freedoms.

With the adoption and application of the new reforms, issues were addressed related to increasing the quality of the investigation procedure of suspected crimes, ensuring the application of the most effective criminal procedure, and including the involvement of qualified psychologists in investigative activities involving minors or incapacitated persons.

In addition, the new Code of Criminal Procedure supplemented the list of measures of disruption by adding house arrest and administrative control; provided additional rights to private participants in the proceedings for the protection of their legitimate interests, including the opportunity to present evidence and initiate an expert examination; and changed the structure of pre-trial proceedings, investigation and the procedural relationship of pre-
trial investigation. Operative-investigative activity was partially incorporated within the criminal procedure legislation, and the procedures for the initiation, implementation and termination of criminal prosecution, grounds and deadlines were fundamentally changed. New structures for the review of judicial acts were established, along with re-examination, cassation and special and legal regulations guaranteeing the effectiveness of exclusive review.

On 26 October 2023, the "Main Directions of the Activities of the Penitentiary and Probation sectors for 2024–2026" were adopted by decree of the Minister of Justice. The main directions of the reforms, which have ensured a paradigm shift from punitive to restorative justice, are as follows:

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<th>Developing penitentiary and probation legislation, improving the parole system, and widening the range of rehabilitation and resocialization approaches;</th>
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<td>Improving penitentiary and probation conditions (mainly by modernizing and optimizing penitentiary institutions) and conditions for juvenile and female inmates;</td>
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<td>Ensuring accessible conditions for the detention of persons with disabilities in penitentiary institutions and improving the conditions of the probation service;</td>
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<td>Improving rehabilitation and resocialization in the penitentiary service as well as “out-of-cell” activity in penitentiary institutions and improving system management and security, in particular by developing a dynamic security system and fighting corruption and organized crime;</td>
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<td>Addressing issues related to staff and management and improving electronic tools in the penitentiary and probation system; and</td>
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<td>Introducing a new model of service organization in the field of protection and security in penitentiary institutions.</td>
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It should be highlighted that these reforms promoted the smooth transition of the criminal justice system of the Republic of Armenia from punitive policy to restorative justice, with the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders into society considered a mandatory component.

Moreover, the Government of Armenia continues to introduce new mechanisms for alternative dispute resolution. The reforms of the field have been conducted in two directions: arbitration and mediation. A new alternative dispute resolution institution named “Arbitration and Mediation Centre of Armenia” was established in 2023. The founders of this institution, an independent and impartial organization, are the Centre for Legislation Development Foundation, the Armenian General Benevolent Union and the Armenian Bar Association.

The unconditional fight against corruption has been and remains one of the top priorities of the Government of Armenia, reflected in numerous strategic documents, notably the Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2019–2022 and the Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan for 2023–2026.

Within the framework of the Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2019–2022, an institutional anti-corruption system was created. In 2019, the Corruption Prevention Commission was formed as a specialized autonomous body for the prevention of corruption, with appropriate guarantees of independence. In 2021, the Anti-Corruption Committee was established as a specialized investigative body for crimes of corruption. Finally, in 2022, the Anti-Corruption Court was established, followed by the appointment of judges in the criminal and civil Courts of Appeal to review acts adopted on crimes of corruption and civil anti-corruption cases.

It should be noted that due to the above-mentioned reforms, which aim to increase public trust towards these institutions, a unique process of election of the presidents of the Corruption Prevention Commission and the Anti-Corruption Committee was elaborated. Two specialized boards have been established, comprising representatives from of Government and civil society organizations, as well as field specialists who jointly elect the candidates.

Additionally, an Anti-Corruption Chamber was created as part of the Cassation Court. Operating since June 2023, the Anti-Corruption Court of Appeal considers the above-mentioned cases on appeal.
From the date of its formation, the Anti-Corruption Committee has accepted for its consideration a large number of criminal cases (criminal proceedings) and materials. During the period from 23 October 2021 to 27 October 2023, 2,336 criminal proceedings were investigated by the Anti-Corruption Committee. For the reporting period, 6,024 applications have been submitted.

To ensure the continuity of anti-corruption reforms and compliance to international convention commitments and recommendations, the Anti-Corruption Strategy of Armenia for 2023–2026 and its Action Plan were developed in 2022, with the inclusive participation of civil society organizations. The following strategic goals have been set out within the Strategy:

- prevention of corruption and enhancing the integrity system;
- improvement of legal and institutional systems for combating corruption;
- anti-corruption education and improvement of public awareness mechanisms;
- business integrity, protection of business rights and facilitation of public and business administration; and
- improvement of the system of anti-corruption monitoring and evaluation.

Unprecedented results are registered with regard to the confiscation of property of illicit origin. A new Department on the Civil Forfeiture of Illegal Assets was established within the Office of the Prosecutor General on 3 June 2020, along with the already established and fully functioning department of corruption cases.

From the date of its creation through September 2023, the Department for the Confiscation of Property of Illicit Origin in Prosecutor General’s Office initiated 419 examinations, and a motion on the application of the preliminary measures for securing claims under 115 proceedings was submitted to the court.
As a result of the examination, the Prosecutor General’s Office submitted 89 statements of claim demanding the confiscation of 1,000 immovable properties and 200 movable properties, as well as participation in 270 legal persons in favour of the Republic of Armenia.

As a result of the examination the Department submitted 89 statements of claim demanding confiscation of 1000 immovable properties and 200 movable properties, as well as participation in 270 legal persons in favour of the Republic of Armenia.

Pursuant to the calculation of the market value of the properties the total cost of the claim exceeded AMD 500 billion. 67 statements of claim from the total 89 were submitted during 2023. The Department for confiscation of property of illicit origin of the Prosecutor General’s Office concluded 4 peace agreements, pursuant whereof 6 immovable properties and 1 movable property with the total value of AMD 2 billion 100 million and about AMD 79 million were transferred to the state.

Thanks to the mentioned reforms, social trust towards public institutions has improved and strengthened exponentially, creating strong social cohesion for the attainment of public support for government reforms and policies. Such social cohesion and public trust based on democracy and the rule of law were exceptionally important for building strong societal resilience in the face evolving tremendous humanitarian challenges and ensuring a whole-of-society response to mitigate the impacts of those challenges and achieve sustainable development in the most unsustainable conditions. Such democratic resilience was also instrumental in fostering the strong backing of society for the initiatives of the Government to achieve lasting and dignified peace in the region.
Peace in the region

Establishing peace and stability and fostering prosperity in the South Caucasus has been among the top priorities of the Government of Armenia. Despite the challenges, Armenia has been determined to achieve sustainable peace in the region based on the principles of international law.

Overall, the country’s efforts to contribute to regional stability focus on three major directions: the development of bilateral relations with neighbouring partner countries, the normalization of relations and establishment of diplomatic relations with neighbours, and the strengthening of regional cooperation via the creation of interconnectivities and interdependences. To that end, Armenia has been making strenuous effort in multilateral fora, to actively engage in various regional and subregional integration programmes – such as the Eastern Partnership, Black Sea Economic Cooperation, TRACECA and others – to ensure that the potential for regional cooperation is utilized to its fullest possible extent.

Armenia consistently develops strategic cooperation with neighbouring Georgia. The signing of the Strategic Partnership Agreement between the two countries on 26 January 2024 is illustrative in this regard. This agreement underscores a mutual commitment to fostering economic cooperation and integration, with the aim to bolster connectivity, amplify trade and fortify energy security.

The country’s dedication to regional cooperation extends to its relations with its southern neighbour, Iran. Armenian–Iranian cooperation and economic collaboration holds significance not only for the two countries but also for the wider region, contributing to regional security and stability. Moreover, it offers additional avenues for energy security, benefiting countries both within the region and beyond.

Armenia continuously undertakes significant efforts in finalizing bilateral agreements on the establishment of peace and interstate relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan and reaching the full normalization of relations and establishing diplomatic relations with Türkiye.

The major challenge that Armenia has been facing throughout the entire post-2020 period has been the lack of a sincere willingness by Azerbaijan to constructively engage in the resolution of conflicts and consistent acts of aggression, undermining peace and security in the region. Despite the aggressions of Azerbaijan against the sovereign territory of Armenia in May 2020, Armenia has continued its efforts towards peace and stability in the region.
and November 2021 and in September 2022, as well as the 10-month-long blockade of the Lachin corridor, ethnic cleansing and forced displacement of the entire indigenous Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh – accompanied by aggressive warmongering and Armenophobic rhetoric – the Government of Armenia remains genuinely engaged in concluding the agreement on the normalization of relations with Azerbaijan, anchored in the principles of:

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<th>Mutual recognition and respect for each other’s territorial integrity, without ambiguity;</th>
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<td>The implementation of the further delimitation process according to the 1991 Alma-Ata Declaration and the most recent legitimate maps of relevant authorities of the Soviet Union; and</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unblocking regional infrastructure based on full respect for the countries’ sovereignty and jurisdiction, as well as on the principles of equality and reciprocity.</td>
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If the Azerbaijani side reciprocates this constructive approach the process is feasible to conclude in a very short period of time.

Deployment of the European Union Monitoring Mission to the Armenia–Azerbaijan border after the infiltration of Azerbaijani armed forces into the sovereign territory of Armenia in 2022 positively contributed to the stability of the region and the security of bordering communities.

At the same time, the diplomatic efforts by Armenia to normalize relations with Türkiye also are worth mentioning. These efforts have involved proactive engagement through diplomatic channels, meetings of special representatives, ministers and leaders of the two countries, with both sides stating their readiness to conduct the normalization process without preconditions. However, over time, this process has been complicated, as Türkiye has been conditioning the Armenia–Türkiye normalization process with the Armenia–Azerbaijan negotiation process.
Following a devastating earthquake in Türkiye, a search and rescue team from the Armenian Ministry of Internal Affairs was deployed to Adiyaman in Türkiye, and humanitarian aid was delivered to the affected population via the closed land border between the two countries. Although some mutual agreements – such as the establishment of direct flights between Yerevan and Istanbul and the lifting of the cargo ban – have been already realized, the Turkish side stays reluctant to conduct the opening of the land border for third-country citizens and diplomatic agents, which was agreed in June 2022 and later reconfirmed several times at the highest levels.

As a country with limited natural resources that has been facing land blockades from the east and from the west for the past three decades, Armenia is also deeply committed to opening all regional communications and promoting connectivity on the basis of sovereignty and jurisdiction of the states through which they pass as well as on the principles of equality and reciprocity.

Armenia has long been an advocate for promoting inclusive and equitable regional and cross-border connectivity. The removal of political barriers to facilitate the free movement of people, goods and services is essential in terms of realizing economic and social rights and the right to development for all peoples.

With this understanding, as well as in pursuit of its comprehensive approach to addressing regional peace and stability, Armenia has initiated the Crossroads of Peace project. As part of the peace agenda of the Government of Armenia, this project aims to develop communications between Armenia and its neighbouring countries, thus transforming the whole paradigm of relationships in the region from confrontation to cooperation and mutual benefit. Moreover, the above-mentioned regional communications can efficiently link the Gulf, the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea, leading to stability and sustainable development for all countries in the region and beyond.
The Crossroads of Peace project is built upon four fundamental principles:

| Principle #1 | All infrastructure – including roads, railways, airways, pipelines, cables and electricity lines – operate under the sovereignty and jurisdiction of the countries through which they pass. |
| Principle #2 | Each country, through its state institutions, in its territory ensures the border, customs control and security of all infrastructure, including the passage through its territory of vehicles, cargo and people. In fact, in the near future, a special unit will be created within the law-enforcement system in Armenia that will have the function of ensuring the security of international communications passing through Armenia, as well as the cargo, vehicles and people using them. |
| Principle #3 | This infrastructure can be used for both international and domestic transportation. |
All countries use all the infrastructure on the basis of reciprocity and equality. According to the principles of reciprocity and equality, border and customs control procedures can be somewhat streamlined, too. As an LLDC itself, Armenia has been proactive in advancing the common needs and priorities of LLDCs in the framework of the United Nations and other international organizations. Guided by the vision that inclusive, equitable and affordable transport infrastructure is the key to unblocking the trade and transit potential of all countries and promoting regional and cross-regional connectivity, Armenia is a staunch advocate for effective and active collaboration among LLDCs, transit countries, international development partners and other stakeholders to ensure the unimpeded movement of people, goods and services.

With the aim of enhancing global partnerships for the better connectivity, the Government of Armenia – jointly with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States – organized a ministerial meeting of LLDCs in Yerevan on 14–15 December 2023 under the theme “Enhancing equitable, affordable and inclusive transport connectivity as a driver for more sustainable and resilient economies in LLDCs”. The Yerevan Statement, adopted at the meeting, highlighted the importance of regional stability, security, peace, strengthening economic and cultural ties and promoting political dialogue via people-to-people contacts, achieving comprehensive and lasting peace for the benefit of all peoples.
WAY FORWARD: Follow-up actions and challenges

The overall trend of global multiple crises, protracted conflicts, gross violations of human rights, climate change challenges, biodiversity loss, pollution and the increasingly complex nature of global processes put major constraints on the sustainable development of countries, creating many risks, challenges and threats. This complex situation and the unprecedented nature and scope of these challenges require coordinated, coherent and whole-of-society action to continue to implement the SDGs while being better prepared for new crises, pandemics, calamities and environmental emergencies.

Through this third VNR, Armenia has presented its experiences in implementing the SDGs with a view to promoting socioeconomic development, protecting human rights and the rule of law, and sustaining a clear trajectory of progress in human development. While building a just, peaceful and inclusive society at home, Armenia continues to pursue comprehensive and lasting peace in the region despite the recent challenging and unprecedented developments, humanitarian crises and the threats of the use of force. This has clearly revealed the impact of the humanitarian–development–peace nexus in such situations in helping overcome complex challenges.

Based on the lessons learned from the third VNR and its conclusions, Armenia will continue its efforts towards implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and overcoming structural constraints and vulnerabilities, such as the country’s landlocked nature, its lack of natural resources, and its high mountainous terrain, with extreme vulnerability to climate change.

To achieve the SDGs in such unfavourable conditions, the Government in partnership with civil society, academia, women’s organizations and young people, will consistently advance its reform agenda in line with SDG 16 to ensure justice, rule of law, democratic governance and strong social cohesion, which are indispensable for strengthening the trust towards public institutions and ensuring social integrity and solidarity in the face of new and evolving challenges.
Armenia will further improve the lives and livelihoods of people through resolute efforts aimed at eradicating poverty and ensuring food security, social protection, health care and well-being among its people. As educated, creative and capable citizens are the backbone of such progress, the continuous reforms of the education system in Armenia and the creation of new opportunities for girls and boys for better access to innovation, including through STEM education, will remain a key priority.

Keeping up with the promise of SDG 13, Armenia will continue its efforts towards the green transition in order to protect the environment and natural habitats, increase forested areas, improve the water management system and create conditions for sustainable agriculture and disaster resilience.

The accelerated implementation of the SDGs also requires actions for the necessary resource mobilization. Armenia will continue its actions towards ensuring tailored SDG financing through targeted budgeting and taxing; supporting, facilitating and encouraging SDG-aligned public–private partnerships; and fostering cooperation with international development partners.

As any progress both nationally and regionally can be heavily undermined by conflicts, wars and other calamities, Armenia will continue to advocate for just, dignified and sustainable peace in the region and with all its neighbours by promoting regional peace initiatives such as the Crossroads of Peace.