



# 2019 Europe/CIS

## Regional Ministerial Conference on Green Economy

08-10 July 2019, Tashkent, Uzbekistan



### TASHKENT COMMUNIQUÉ

#### THE JOINT STATEMENT OF THE 2019 EUROPE/CIS REGIONAL MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON GREEN ECONOMY 9 July 2019, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

1. A clear priority for many developed and developing economies is the need for innovation, productivity, and secure jobs. While different stakeholders might have varying needs, there is an overall need for higher productivity and efficiency, stronger resilience and innovation.
2. Green economy offers vast opportunities in eradicating poverty as well as sustaining economic growth, which is of particular concern for the countries in the Global South, as well as enhancing social inclusion, improving human welfare, creating opportunities for employment and decent work for all, while maintaining the healthy functioning of the Earth's ecosystems.
3. Failure to take a timely action in walking away from unsustainable economic practices threatens to potentially lead to environmental degradation that can have serious negative implications on future human health and welfare, and our entire ecosystem. A number of environmental systems are being pushed beyond sustainable limits through, for example, loss of biodiversity, nitrogen and phosphorus cycles, land use change, and climate change.
4. In order to drive sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and job creation, particularly for women, youth and the poor, it is important that implementation of green economy policies would adopt a holistic approach, by linking financing, technology, capacity development and other elements of the enabling environment for the green economy. Considerable advantages and synergies can be derived from enhancing cooperation between public and private sectors in the widespread and effective adoption of green economy principles and practices.
5. Overall, the decisions we make today will determine humanity's future. Our economic activity going forward will determine if we are able to avoid the worst impacts of climate change and maintain stocks of natural capital.
6. The 2019 Europe/CIS Regional Ministerial Conference on Green Economy, that took place during 8-10 July 2019 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, was a result of the success of the annual, since 2014, World Green Economy Summit (WGES) model and a direct response to the requests of participating countries and institutional partners to bring green economy solutions closer to the regional contexts and to deepen the impact of transition to a green economy through scaling up and replication of successful practices at the regional level.
7. The Regional Ministerial Conference on Green Economy was designed as an extension to WGES aiming to raise regional awareness by showcasing and scaling up the impact of successful evidence-based green economy solutions crafted and tested by countries in the Europe/CIS region in addressing sustainable development challenges pertinent to the needs and aspirations of the region.
8. The three thematic focus areas of the 2019 Europe/CIS Regional Ministerial Conference on Green Economy were improving regulatory and policy frameworks for a green economy, promoting innovative green investment through public-private partnerships, and advancing national capacities for a holistic green action.



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9. The 2019 Europe/CIS Regional Ministerial Conference on Green Economy was organized by the World Green Economy Organization in close cooperation with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, and the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in Uzbekistan, and was hosted by the Government of Uzbekistan. Other partners that supported the 2019 Europe/CIS Regional Ministerial Conference on Green Economy include the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Food & Agriculture Organization, the China Agricultural University, the UN Climate Change, the United Nations Development Programme, and the International Solar Alliance.
10. It brought together high-level government representatives, representatives of international organizations, foundations, as well as relevant private sector players and civil society actors from around Europe/CIS.
11. The participants of the Conference agreed to produce a joint statement intended to further promote the green economy agenda and to serve as a policy recommendation framework on the practical aspects related to advancing the transition to a green economy model.
12. More specifically, the participants agreed on the following recommendations:
  - A. In part of **enabling policy & regulatory frameworks for a green economy**:
    - a. To create enabling conditions for adapting green technologies through building on the strong political will for a transition to a "green economy" in every economic sector, the adoption of relevant legal acts and political decisions, as well as the infrastructure for the implementation of green mechanisms;
    - b. To ensure governmental support to private sector in introducing green technologies; to establish risks distribution financial mechanisms, including for public-private partnerships;
    - c. To create the enabling regulatory framework and to establish green funding mechanisms simultaneously, including the establishment of green funds, energy efficiency funds and other similar mechanisms;
    - d. To unleash the potential of green agriculture to advance environmentally sustainable agro-industrial production; to adopt innovative technologies tested in the region;
    - e. To involve communities in support of green investments;
    - f. To promote innovations as a tool for the development of a green economy in the context of increasing competition for financial resources.
  - B. In part of **promoting funding of the sustainable development agenda** through green finance:
    - a. To engage actively the private sector in financing green investments assuming that the state financial support is not sufficient for the transition to a green economy;
    - b. To ensure state support to sustainable growth of the "green economy" through relevant fiscal policy;
    - c. To establish integrated and interconnected electricity grids from renewable sources that will allow reducing losses and increasing the contribution to "green development"; to establish interconnected power grids in Europe and the CIS countries for the transfer of electricity to countries in need of additional resources;



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- d. To shift from estimating GDP in quantitative terms to a qualitative assessment taking into account green investments;
- e. To incentivize banking system to play a key role in green finance and funding green investments;
- f. To use various sources of financing (state, private sector, international funds and financial institutions, etc.), including alternative financing instruments such as green bonds, for the introducing of green technologies;
- g. To substantially increase green research and development financing from state budgets; the financing priorities in R&D shall be, among others, the projects aimed at efficient use of natural resources, reducing or limiting environmental impacts and enhancing capacity building;
- h. To develop region-specific strategy and mechanisms to ensure access to climate finance.

### C. In part of national-level capacity development:

- a. To switch to sustainable consumption through changing behavior as an absolute prerequisite to achieve sustainable development; to initiate a significant and conceptual transformation of policy thinking and re-design of routine activities in all areas of a human life;
- b. To undertake practical steps to increase the role of all stakeholders in promoting green growth at the national and regional levels;
- c. To support the initiative put forward by Uzbekistan within the framework of the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) on the transition to the global green development path based on the introduction of energy-saving environmentally friendly technologies;
- d. To promote, in collaboration with international financial institutions, public-private partnerships in order to exploit high potential of solar and wind energy, to strengthen regional cooperation and maximize the use of renewable energy sources; to support the efforts undertaken by Uzbekistan for widening regional cooperation in expanding of use of renewable energy sources;
- e. To ensure the implementation of political decisions aimed at the development of regional strategies and projects in the field of green economy, in particular, related to reduction of land degradation, maintaining biodiversity, implementing “smart” agriculture initiatives and promoting organic agricultural production; to support and encourage further efforts to tackle the ecological problems of the region, the Aral Sea among others;
- f. To expand the use of renewable energy sources;
- g. To raise the level of education and public awareness of the need to introduce sustainable green technologies through reflecting green concepts in educational textbooks and manuals;
- h. To implement the transition to environmentally sustainable development in the context of poverty reduction, creation of sustainable jobs, resolving of gender problems, and the involvement of the private sector through the internationally agreed actions and approaches;
- i. To develop and implement the innovative development strategies, with focus on human capital development, green jobs and enabling environment creation, as a complex multitool for achieving sustainable development goals;



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- j. To support volunteers' activities as one of the driving forces in the process of transition to a green economy, which can generate "demand" for policy processes and significantly contribute to change in behavior; to create cases for upscaling/replication through small ground level activities able to bring bigger impact at national level; to enable participation of wider group of stakeholders in promotion of green economy principles, generating shift in policies and behavioral change.
- k. To improve the skills in effective managing of the existing resource potential and to abandon the wasteful consumption model, as well as to improve the energy efficiency criteria in the field of affordable housing construction;
- l. To ensure the transition to energy-efficient types of vehicles, phasing out the use of hydrocarbon fuels and, in general, to intensify the transition to a green development scenario;
- m. To increase the involvement of relevant line ministries and agencies in the process of capacity building, as well as to ensure closer interaction of the international organizations under the auspices of the UN;
- n. To reach out specific target groups, for instance employees from banking sector, teachers etc., who has direct role in promotion and implementation of green economy;
- o. To promote green economy at national level by showcasing the real examples and tangible results of successful projects and programs performed worldwide;
- p. To consider grant funding as a good opportunity to test innovative/green ideas and solutions for further replication and scaling up; to ensure complementarity and stronger cumulative impact through promoting better collaboration and coordination among international actors.

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