

# Conference Report

2019

Role of Universities  
in Implementing the SDGs  
in Afghanistan



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An Initiative of

# KATEB UNIVERSITY

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## INTRODUCTION

# INTRODUCTION

On August 29, 2019, Kateb University in partnership with the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and Ministry of Economy of Afghanistan (MoEC), UNDP and Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) organized a one-day conference titled 'Role of Universities in Implementation of the SDGs in Afghanistan'. The event was held at Government Media and Information Center with over 250 participants from different universities, CSOs, Development Organizations and the government organizations. They came together to discuss the current status quo of the SDGs in Afghanistan and to discuss the role universities can play in achieving the SDGs in Afghanistan.

The conference was a gateway for further cooperation among universities in Afghanistan to play their roles in the fields of Teaching and Learning, Research, External Leadership and Operation and Governance.

This report provides a summary of the key issues discussed at the conference and abstracts every presentation.

## Conference Objectives

*The conference aimed to achieve the following objectives:*

- To provide an overall update on the current status and progress of SDGs in Afghanistan
- To discuss possible actions by Afghan universities to help achieve the SDGs by 2030
- To explore opportunities of synergies and collaboration

- To highlight lessons learned from universities around the globe and discuss their feasibility to the Afghan context

*The major expected outcomes:*

- Enhanced understanding of the SDGs and their status in Afghanistan
- Established partnerships among universities to advance SDG implementation in areas of education, research, creation and dissemination of knowledge
- Available partnership opportunities between universities and other stakeholders by offering synergies to achieve the SDGs in Afghanistan
- On paper comprehensive conference report to be shared with stakeholders
- A developed policy-note to highlight the SDGs status in Afghanistan from different stakeholders' perspectives and propose policy recommendations for better implementation of the SDGs in Afghanistan

*Other key takeaways from the conference include:*

- UNDP Afghanistan will share the Meta Data document with universities and ask them to work together on data analysis.
- The Minister of Economy encouraged universities to focus on localization, costing and national strategies for the SDGs during the 2020-2030.
- Professor Jeffrey Sachs encouraged Kateb University to take the lead in creating a national network of universities, research centers, and think tanks by establishing SDSN Afghanistan.

## Participants



## Plenary Session and Panel Discussion Agenda

1. 'Structure of SDGs in Afghanistan' by Dr. Kohkan Fazelpour Head of SDGs Coordination Unit Office of CEO Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
2. 'How Can Universities Contribute to the SDGs' (Experience and Knowledge Sharing Related to Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Universities) by Dr. Tahl Kestin, SDSN Australia, New Zealand & Pacific; Monash University
3. 'What Role Can Universities Play in Helping Afghan Government and International Agencies in Implementing the SDGs' by Dr. Hussain Etemadi PhD from Hafen City University, Hamburg & ETH Switzerland (EAWAG-SANDEC) and Research and Development Director at Omran Holding Group (OHG)
4. Findings about Research Paper "Illicit Economies and SDG16 in Afghanistan" The challenges of doing research on SDGs in Afghanistan - lessons learnt and recommendations by Mr. Qayoom Suroosh Project Manager at AREU
5. 'Afghanistan's Sustainable Development Goals (A-SDGs) - an opportunity for a new collective approach with Government and Civil Society' by Ms. Fiona Gall Director at ACBAR

1. From Kateb University Mr. Zia Shefaie Vice Chancellor for Admin and Finance discussed Kateb University's SDGs journey: Past, Present and the Future
2. From Ministry of Economy (MoE) Mr. Mohammad Nabi Sroosh Director General of Policy & RBM discussed "Status Quo of SDGs in Afghanistan and Future plan of MoE on SDGs"
3. From UNDP Shoaib Khaksari (SDGs Project Manager) updated the participants on the latest world trends of SDGs and the lessons learned to successfully implement SDGs in Afghanistan
4. From SOAS University of London Dr. Jasmine Bhatia discussed "Impact of University Researches on Development of Countries - Best Practices and Strategies that Afghan Universities Can Follow"

## OPENING

The conference was commenced by Mr. Ali Ahmad Yousefi, Chancellor of Kateb University, who welcomed the participants and discussed the contributions of universities, as academic partners in achieving the SDGs in Afghanistan. The key note speaker of the event was Professor Jeffrey Sachs Director SDSN who addressed the conference participants online. The guest speakers of the event were the CEO of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan H.E. Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, H.E. Dr. Mustafa Mastoor Minister of Economy, Dr. Orzala Nemat Director of Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit and Napoleon Navarro Senior Deputy Resident Representative at UNDP Afghanistan. 50 seats were dedicated to the participants of private and public universities considering their critical role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Speeches and Keynote Addresses



**Ali Ahmad Yousefi**  
Chancellor of  
Kateb University

Mr. Yousefi believes that through teaching, training, and interdisciplinary research, universities can play a significant role in achieving SDGs in Afghanistan. He is certain that none of the Sustainable Development Goals – the internationally agreed framework for tackling poverty, inequality, disease, and climate change can be achieved without the cooperation of higher education and community engagement. Mr. Yousefi credits the implementation and success on country's own sustainable development policies, plans and programs through contacting with all stakeholders including governments, civil society, the private sector and others that are expected to contribute to the realization of the agenda. Finally Mr. Chancellor thinks that universities should also provide opportunities to study in various disciplines pertaining to Sustainable Development Goals.



# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

*Jeffrey Sachs*

Sustainable Development Solutions Network has been operating to accelerate joint learning and promote integrated approaches that address the interconnected economic, social, and environmental challenges confronting the world and enable a large number of leaders from all regions and diverse backgrounds to participate in the development of the network. All universities in Afghanistan can also be partners with SDSN to promote Afghanistan's commitment to the SDGs. The SDGs' four key working areas are economic development, social justice, environmental sustainability and good governance. Fragile economic situation and environmental challenges (air pollution) are the factors we need investment in and indorsement to the social justice in Afghanistan.

We at the SDSN produce a report every year that is an index measuring progress towards SDGs. The report measures progress of 160 countries including Afghanistan. The report and details of information about Afghanistan and any other country can be found online. According to rating that we did for more than 160 countries; topping the list and achieving SDGs are European countries Denmark, Sweden, Finland, and France while U.S stands on 35th place and Afghanistan on 115th. SDGs progress in Afghanistan is below the standard line and needs urgent solution. Afghanistan is in need of a systematic approach and a strategy to attract financial resources that should turn the challenges into areas of strength.

Health care is one of SDGs premier objectives. According to United Nations World Population Prospects the average life expectancy at birth is 71 years. However, life expectancy in Afghanistan is only 62 years. Poor nutrition, lack of healthcare and violence are the main reasons behind the low life expectancy in Afghanistan. Making clean water accessible for residents and to providing people with better nutrition can increase life expectancy. Environmental challenges especially air pollution in Kabul is affecting people and causing diseases.



**Jeffrey Sachs**  
Director, SDSN, and Director,  
Center for Sustainable  
Development, Columbia  
University, USA

Annually, hundreds of people die as a result of air pollution. We hope the Afghan government with collaboration of international organizations set the above standards and increase life standards including life expectancy in Afghanistan in the upcoming years.

Universities can play an active part in rebuilding Afghanistan. Young graduates that leave universities and enter practical life should be equipped with all sort of soft skills. Introducing SDGs to students and polishing their leadership skills can pave the way for sustainable development. National action plan, good governance, urban development, information technology, research methods, healthcare and infrastructure are other areas that universities can prepare young graduates to master in so they could have their influence on community and be active and productive members of their society. SDSN is offering free online materials in different courses for students to study. We have introduced a new master's degree in SDG that 40 universities around the world are teaching at present. We are ready to help universities in Afghanistan to include this new master's degree in their syllabus and be part of our global network of universities. Mr. Sachs thanks Kateb University for hosting and organizing SDSN in Afghanistan. Every university and institution can have a role in SDGs. We look forward to help and support one another in the upcoming events. Afghanistan is a great country with great potentials. SDG is a huge opportunity and it is really meant for Afghanistan.

# GUEST SPEAKERS



**CEO Afghansitan**  
**Dr. Abdullah Abdullah**

If anyone is claiming to serve the people and the future, here is an area to focus on. Since the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals Committee, these goals have become a very clear and informed discussion with the involvement of all institutions. We hope the Sustainable Development Goals become a guideline for the Afghan government for the sake of community health and stability in Afghanistan and living in dignity and peace without conflict. These goals will not be achievable if they remain at the level of a slogan and reporting. Sustainable Development Goals are not just about economic issues, but about issues such as gender equality, environmental issues and social needs. Sustainable Development Goals are our national priorities and our national priorities are in line with Sustainable Development Goals. Localization, budgeting and adapting it to national programs are our main concerns.

Resources should be dedicated based on the current situation of the country and its limitations. The sequencing of SDGs responds to the comprehensive nature of the 2030 Agenda, but it also recognizes that Afghanistan has limited resources to achieve all the goals simultaneously. Through research, universities can help other sectors in prioritization and sequencing of the resources while being mindful of Afghanistan's financial constraints. Plans designed to advance Sustainable Development Goals must be fully operational, flexible, and inclusive with informed research, decision, and policy. Part of this can be done by academic and research institutes. At the global level, there is the issue of climate discrimination. The

**Abdullah Abdullah**  
Chief Executive of the Islamic  
Republic of Afghanistan

indiscriminate approach of advanced nations to climate issues has left a heavy cost on poor countries. Sustainable Development Goals must be transformed into people's everyday discussion.

The SDGs conference would create coordination among government and private sectors to support Afghanistan as it prepares for possible peace in the near future. Universities reinforce and underlie the principles of the Sustainable Development Goals through research and training. To realize Sustainable Development Goals and establish a national framework, we need active cooperation of government, private sectors and civil society to provide financial assistance and mobilise universities from domestic and international sources in accordance.

Kateb University has already made important contributions to the achievement of the SDGs through their current actions in different areas. It has played a leading role in the implementation of the SDGs by holding SDGs conference to strengthen public engagement and participation in addressing the SDGs.



## GUEST SPEAKERS

*Minister of Economy - Dr. Mustafa Mastoor*



**Mustafa Mastoor**  
Minister of Economy of  
the Islamic Republic of  
Afghanistan

Ministry of Economy has been designated as the lead ministry and focal point to take lead in coordinating, planning, monitoring and reporting on SDGs. Sustainable Development Goals are not economic development; rather certain goals set to be achieved by 2030. Social justice, environmental issues, gender equality and good governance are some key objectives to be achieved by set time period. The SDGs agenda is a golden opportunity for Afghanistan to benefit from. Afghanistan is currently suffering from imbalanced economic situation. For instance, macroeconomic indicators such as poverty, unemployment and shaky economic growth are not clearly in good shape. It is heard many times from the Ministry of Economy and other organizations that poverty in all its dimensions in Afghanistan is above 50%, especially in remote and less developed areas. The poverty is one of the challenges we all face in achieving the SDGs in Afghanistan. Due to hard economic and security conditions in Afghanistan, the level of economic growth is low. Unemployment is one of the main social problems in Afghanistan. Although purchasing power is still not bad in Afghanistan, the trade deficit is 90% due to low production power in the country. That is, most of the items we have on the market are imported. While production can be done domestically, war, political instability and a shortage of production programs especially in the private sector lessens these opportunities. Unfortunately, about 2.4 million of our young people are actively backed up in labor markets. Economic growth in Afghanistan needs to accelerate. According to available data, economic growth is 3% in the recent year. The unsustainable population growth of Afghanistan in comparison to other countries means increasing poverty, higher unemployment and social problems.

If the solution is not thought of, the situation becomes more difficult. Sustainable Development Goals can be a solution for eliminating these problems. Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. The Ministry of Economy

as a lead ministry in working with relevant government agencies, producers, civil society, private sector and academic institutions has done fundamental work for the achievement of sustainable development in the past few years. It has created the opportunity to plan and realize this program such as building institutional structures across different entities as well as agencies such as the Executive Committee on Sustainable Development Goals. The committee has already held more than 100 meetings, which have been technically policy-making and decision-making. Moreover, the Ministry of Economy has set up 76 educational and awareness programs in cities and provinces to inform people, especially those in government institutions and held numerous meetings with international institutions for technical and financial support. As a result of these efforts, we were able to implement a comparative framework for achieving Sustainable Development Goals comprising 16 major and 110 smaller ones across Afghanistan. Sustainable Development Goals must be localized according to the conditions in each country. Achieving these goals requires the participation of all institutions, universities and media. The Ministry of Economy is developing a 10-year economic model for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Universities can play a significant role in enhancing the first economic model by the Afghan government for achieving SDGs.

In this regard, we welcomed a 16 member international delegation cooperating with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).



The 16 member delegation held numerous meetings with all relevant institutions during the period in Kabul. Since the beginning of these meetings, we have been conducting initial surveys and collaborating with other partners in the Ministry of Economy to develop the macroeconomic model based on Sustainable Development Goals. The purpose of this economic model is to analyze the country's policies to enable the Council of Ministers and the Cabinet to make evidence-based decisions in prioritizing selected sources.

Sustainable Development Goals as a multi-purpose strategy provides the only platform for public participation at various levels in cities and provinces. It should also be remembered that the SDGs agenda will not only enable sharing the experiences and programs of the countries that have been successful in achieving sustainable goals, it will also help developed countries to mobilize their resources through long-term cooperation with under-developed and developing countries.

In conclusion, universities can play an important role in creating an appropriate environment for research, surveillance, advisory and public awareness especially the educated members of the society.

As the chief guest of the event, H.E. Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, the Chief Executive Officer of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan addressed the participants with his speech in which we talked about the Important of prioritizing the SDGs for Afghanistan and the importance of the conference.

Dr. Abdullah Abdullah



"Kateb University has already made important contributions to the achievement of the SDGs through their current actions in different areas. It has played a leading role in the implementation of the SDGs by holding SDGs conference to strengthen public engagement and participation in addressing the SDGs."

Dr. Abdullah Abdullah  
CEO Afghanistan



**Napeleon Navarro**  
Senior Deputy Country Director (UNDP)

I would wish to congratulate Kateb University for this effort which is the first one. I want to talk about three things this morning. First, UNDP's role in SDGs, second, I would like to talk about how UNDP under the leadership of Ministry of Economy has been implementing the SDGs in Afghanistan, and last what does it mean for universities, academic and think tanks in Afghanistan.

First, as mentioned by the previous speakers, unlike the MDGs, SDGs recognizes the complexity involved and how no single agency or ministry can undertake the tasks. If the SDGs are to be achieved, it should be achieved in a whole of society or at least a whole of government approach and that would involve the universities. Unlike the other UN Agencies, UNDP under the UN reform has been tasked to support government and other UN Agencies to help achieve the SDGs in every country. Other UN agencies are focused on their mandates, UNDP is obligated to work with other UN agencies to help the government achieve; so, it is a little bit different. Because UNDP recognized that SDGs are fundamentally complex. UNDP globally has four roles to help the government and other UN Agencies; first, Policy and Program (Solutions to Achieve the SDGs), secondly, providing support for metrics and analysis, third, SDGs financing, and last Knowledge and Innovation. There was a roundtable discussion held here a month ago discussing specifically the radical integrative modeling, working with the government to develop an economic model to be able to understand how policies impact not just income but across all 16 SDGs. Therefore, we are also working under the leadership of Ministry of Economy, on supporting the effort and prioritization, data mainstreaming, localization as well as looking at 2020 to 2030 roadmap which his Excellency Mr. Mastoor described earlier. The goal is to have an integrative model which different ministries can use to have a policy dialogue to actually look what are the tradeoffs and synergies if we invest in different areas such as agriculture and public health.

Let's come to point and talk about what it means for universities and think tanks in general. I pass it two implications. First, to universities academia as generators of knowledge, I will propose a policy development model which I have seen in China. The fact is, every ministry is busy running the country. In China they developed a model where every ministry has a think tank, which is actually a university. We had university working for climate change, we had universities working with regard to the issues of the 270,000 migrant workers who were basically unintegrated in the coastal cities and yet they were the same who were driving China's



**Napeleon Navarro**  
Senior Deputy Country Director (UNDP)

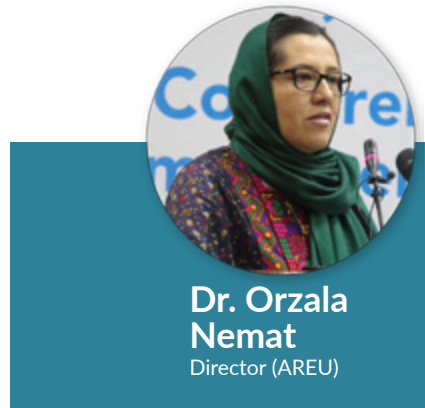
Economic Growth. But yet they could not get health, education or housing. So, the whole issue was how to deliver public services to them. So, the thing about the think tanks was that they were given a lot of ways to work with Civil Society. Maybe the ministries cannot reach out across for Political Reasons, but the think tanks and the universities allowed that. So perhaps as a model, the government of Afghanistan and the universities may think to what Jeffrey Sachs said earlier. As SDSN, but more, they should think of the Think Tanks to support discussions across the government. My second implication comes from a more developed pathway perspective. What the role of universities in Afghanistan is in today's world. AREU likes to talk about the lack of development challenge of Afghanistan. The fact is that, in today's industrialization, you are talking about industrialization 4.0. You are now in what they call in economics as "Demographic Dividend Period". When you look at the history of East Asia, China, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, the fastest economic growth in their period happened in the Demographic Dividend Period. It is time, like in Afghanistan when half of the population is below the age of 25 or your fertility rates maybe high. But that is an opportunity because most of the world is almost below its fertility rate. The question is if Afghans will be participating in the world which is aging, investment in human capital will be important and now is the time of Demographic Dividend Transition. And if you learn from lessons of the East Asian Countries, it is a time of great opportunity. But as I said earlier, if not careful, I can think of a couple of countries where it caused serious problems because of not being taken the advantage of. 100,000 people are entering the workforce every year, jobs have to be created and the youth have to be educated.

**Dr. Orzala Nemat**  
Director (AREU)

The Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit is an independent research - based institution in Kabul established in 2002 with the support of the international community in Afghanistan. The purpose of the office is to actively disseminate the results and findings of its research through evidence-based high quality policy-related research in Afghanistan to influence the policies and functioning of institutions. On the other hand, with its research dissemination, the AREU seeks to strengthen the culture of research, and education and training in the country which is in line with SDGs. To this end, the Afghan Research and Evaluation Unit works actively and closely with policymakers, civil society activists, researchers and donors in the development process to increase the use of the library and its research. It also strengthens research and research capacities and provides the basis for analysis, discussion and discourse.

On behalf of the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit as an independent research institution in Afghanistan, we are proud to have been able to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Kateb University; thereby, working together on major initiatives such as today's conference on SDGs. The Strategic Plan of the Research and Evaluation Unit of Afghanistan states that. In addition to research carried out in different areas, it will conduct studies in coordination and cooperation with respected government departments that are primarily responsible for pursuing Sustainable Development Goals of Afghanistan, in particular, the Ministry of Economy and executive committees; so that, we can assist government collaborations through research and study.

Goal 16 pertaining to justice and peace has two



**Dr. Orzala Nemat**  
Director (AREU)

indicators which are money transfer index and weapon transfer index. There has to be work on the big problem which is the illegitimate economy. A primary example of this illicit economy is the production and processing of heroin. The value of this illicit economic activity in Afghanistan is estimated to be \$863 million based on Afghan R&D studies.

More than half a million people have to work in the illegitimate economy. More than 263,000 hectares of land are used in this illegal economy. And about 10 percent of the GDP of the Afghan economy is derived from this illegitimate economy. This is regrettable that anti-government forces and some individuals and powers within the system benefit from it. If we are to achieve the goals of sustainable development in Afghanistan, we must move based on evidence and facts. Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit are working to clarify these facts and evidence

Holding this conference is a great initiative by Kateb University as there is a pressing need for academic institutions such as Kateb University and research institutions such as the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit to collaborate with the government through extensive research and study so as to help achieve the goals of Afghanistan's sustainable development.





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# PRESENTATIONS

## PRESENTATIONS

The conference plenary session started was divided into two parts, the presentations and the panel discussion.

Dr. Koukan Fazlpour delivered the first presentation regarding the Sustainable Development Goals Structure in Afghanistan. Dr. Tahl Kestin from Monash University in Australia gave the second presentation online on 'How Universities Contribute to Sustainable Development Goals' (Experience and Knowledge of Australian, New Zealand and Pacific Universities). Dr. Hossein Etemadi University of Huffen City Hamburg, Germany and (ETH) Switzerland, Director of Research and Development Department of Omran Holding Group delivered the third presentation about 'the role of universities in helping the Afghan government and international development institutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals'. The fourth presentation was regarding the findings of a research on 'The illicit Economies and the Sixteen Sustainable Development Goals of Afghanistan'. Mr. Qayyum Soroush Project Manager at AREU delivered challenges for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, lessons learnt

and recommendations. The final presentation was about 'Afghanistan's Sustainable Development Goals, an Opportunity for a Convergent Approach between Government and Civil Society' by Ms. Fiona Gall the Director of ACBAR.

During the Panel Discussion, first of all Mohammad Zia Shefaie, the Vice Chancellor for Admin and Finance Kateb University discussed about "Kateb University and the SDGs in Afghanistan: Past, Present and Future". The second panelist, Mohammad Nabi Soroush Director of Policy & RBM of Ministry of Economy of Afghanistan discussed the Status Quo of SDGs in Afghanistan and the Future Plan of MoE related to SDGs. In addition, Mr. Shoeb Khaksari the UNDP Project Manager discussed the latest world trends of SDGs and the lessons learned to successfully implement SDGs in Afghanistan. Finally, Dr. Jasmine Batia from SOAS University of London discussed 'the Impact of University Researches on Development of Countries: Best Practices and Strategies that Afghanistan Universities can follow'.



**Dr. Kohkan Fazelpour**  
Head of SDGs Coordination

### "Structure of SDGs in Afghanistan"

The Executive Committee on SDGs, established on July 8, 2017 is the common platform in Afghanistan that brings together the key stakeholders (the government, private sector, civil society and international partners) for coordination of SDGs activities and their implementation. The Executive Committee of SDGs as per its mandate provides government support and policy advice to on proposed SDGs implementation mechanism to the Ministry of Economy. In addition, the executive committee creates cross-sectorial coordination to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs and provide oversight on the progress of the ASDGs targets and indicators. The Executive Committee is co-chaired by the Office of the Chief Executive of the IROA, the Ministry of Economy and UNDP Afghanistan.

The executive committee is expected to make sure that the SDGs are aligned with ANPDF and is implemented in a timely manner. In addition it is supposed to make sure the national policies and sectoral plans are also aligned with SDGs. The executive committee in addition to above facilitates the coordination and monitoring among government entities track progress of SDGs at national and international level. Most importantly and lastly, the Executive Committee has to try and make sure that the SDGs have

become part of national discourse.

Below is a script taken from the SDGs Executive Committee term of reference regarding the budget sectors of the SDGs:

"Given Afghanistan's intention to nationalize the SDGs based on its national priorities and its budgeting process, the executive committee is composed of eight budgetary sectors. With a view to streamline the coordination process in the context of these eight budgetary sectors (Security, Good Governance, Agriculture, Rural Development, Economic Growth, Infrastructure, Health, Education and Social Protection), and four technical working groups have been designed to mainstream the coordination process within the Executive Committee on Sustainable Development Goals."

The TOR regarding the technical working groups says that the technical groups have been designed so that related topics, that are associated to the budgetary sectors, can be discussed within an umbrella working group. Therefore, the four technical working groups respectively focus on:

- Security and Governance
- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Health, Education, Environment and Social Protection
- Economic Growth and Infrastructure

Subsequently, the technical working groups focus on the reform actions required to address each of the issues that are cross-cutting with the SDGs, with the purpose of attaining the SDGs linked to their respective issue. The technical working groups will in addition include systematic discussions on strengthening partnerships, necessary to achieve the SDGs related to their respective areas of interest.

Detailed terms of reference and standard operating procedures for each working group may be developed if necessary. In such case, the working group is responsible for drafting its terms of reference and standard operating procedures and submits those to the Executive Committee on Sustainable Development Goals for approval.

Once available, the main characteristics of the



terms of reference and standard operating procedures of the Technical Groups will be annexed to the present terms of reference, as annex the Ministry of Economy conveys the opportunity to participate to each of the technical working groups to the civil society and the private sector. The Executive Committee on Sustainable Development Goals will appoint the representatives of the civil society and private sector that are most relevant to the cross-cutting issue to be discussed by the respective working group.

Members of each Working Groups are to be decided by the Executive Committee on Sustainable Development Goals.

The members of the executive committee are as follows:

- Office of the President and Office of the Chief Executive
- UNDP
- Breshna Shirkat (DABS)

- Kabul Municipality
- Ministry of Public Works
- Ministry of Commerce
- Ministry of Energy
- Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
  - Ministry of Urban Development and Housing
    - Directorate of Water Supply and Canalization
  - Ministry of Women Affairs
  - Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
  - Ministry of Finance
  - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  - And representatives of the civil society, representatives of the private sector, representatives of the donors' community, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and The World Bank



**Dr. Tahl Kestin**  
Network Manager (SDSN Australia)

**“How Can Universities contribute to the SDGs (Experience and Knowledge Sharing related to Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Universities)”**

Dr. Kestin gave an overview of the role of universities in achieving the SDGs. She said that universities could contribute to the SDGs in many important ways, and already do a lot

through their usual traditional activities. But to achieve the SDGs we need universities to implement activities that go beyond “business as usual”, in particular in teaching for the SDGs and research for the SDGs. She briefly looked into what universities need to do differently in these areas and gave some examples of how these ideas were implemented at Monash University. To finish up she gave some suggestions for where universities in Afghanistan could go to find more information.

Here is an excerpt from her presentation during the conference:

The SDGs, which you have been hearing about all morning, represent really complex and interconnected challenges that the world has not been able to solve for a long time. Universities have considerable and unique skills and expertise that can help solve these challenges, and we have an obligation to use them to help lead the local, national and international

response to achieve the goals. The SDGs framework recognizes the special role of universities in several goals and targets that directly relate to general education, preparing students for employment, capacity building, research and innovation. However, university expertise is core to solving all societal challenges, so universities contribute indirectly to all the SDGs. In my view, the SDGs cannot be achieved without them.

**How can universities contribute to the SDGs?**

University research is critical for providing basic knowledge, evidence for policy, solutions, technologies and innovations that help solve the SDGs.

General quality education is crucial to the implementation and achievement of all the SDGs. But university teaching can also provide students with the specialized knowledge, skills and motivation to help them become SDG problem-solvers.

Universities are often large entities and can have significant influence on the society, economy and environment within their campuses, communities, and regions. Therefore, universities can make a big contribution to the SDGs by ensuring that their policies and practices reflect the intentions of the SDGs. And finally, universities can leverage their unique position within society to bring different sectors together and support good policy making – something which today’s conference demonstrates beautifully.

Universities can contribute to the SDGs in a huge number of ways and already do a lot of these things through their core “business as usual” activities. However, there are a couple of areas where universities need to go beyond what is considered usual practice, and these are teaching for the SDGs and research for the SDGs. We will go into a bit more detail on these next.

**Teaching the SDGs – What**



The SDGs represent very complex challenges. To address them we need people and organizations that can operate in new, more collaborative, interconnected, and systemic ways. This is recognized in SDG 4.7, which calls for “all learners to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development”. This requires universities to provide “learners”, regardless of what they are studying or their profession, with knowledge, skills, and motivation to understand and address the challenges of the SDGs, and empower them to take action. The knowledge includes understanding of the SDGs framework itself, as well as more generally understanding the major sustainable development issues facing our world. Teaching for the SDGs also includes a wide range of cross-cutting skills, many of which were originally identified by the fields of Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Education, but go beyond them. For example, systems thinking, collaboration, communication, cross-cultural engagement, entrepreneurship, design thinking, critical thinking, ethical thinking, social and emotional learning, and so on. These are not generally actively taught at universities, and if they are, it is often to a small number of students as part of something like a “sustainable development” course. The SDGs require us to mainstream teaching these to all learners in the university. (And I am deliberately using “learners” here rather than “students”, because universities have access to many other kinds of learners beyond formal students – including people in other sectors, the local community, and university staff.)

**Teaching the SDGs – How**

Some universities are starting to grapple with what teaching for the SDGs means on a practical level. The general conclusion so far is that there are many different ways to do this, and it is up to each university to develop a suitable approach. For example, there are multiple channels through which the SDGs can be taught. The formal curriculum is just one of them –teaching the SDGs can also be effectively delivered



through other channels, such as co- and extra-curricular activities, executive education, and community outreach. And while there are many channels, there are generally just two main approaches to teaching the SDGs: either creating specialized courses or activities around the SDGs, or integrating SDG knowledge and skills into existing courses or activities across all disciplines.

There are also several key elements that have been identified to strengthen SDG teaching, such as:

- Linking the SDGs to students' lives or what they are studying
- Giving students opportunities to participate in solving local SDG challenges (for example on campus, or in their community)
- Bringing in experts from other disciplines and sectors to help teach the SDGs

This is a very high-level overview of teaching the SDGs, and I will provide some resources at the end for people who want to explore further.

### Teaching for the SDGs – Examples

Before closing off on this topic, I wanted to give you three brief examples of how my university is starting to implement these ideas. Just remember that there are many other ways to do it. The first example is an extra-curricular program called Leave No One Behind . It is a social entrepreneurship competition for students to develop a solution to one or more SDGs, such as a new product or a community program. It builds student literacy in the SDGs and fosters innovation and entrepreneurship. It's been a huge success with students, and they developed some great ideas. We also provide a "Leadership for Sustainable Development " stream as part of the cross-faculty Masters in Environment and Sustainability. The stream aims to equip students with everything that's needed for them to guide, influence and lead the development of positive social, environmental and economic solutions to the SDGs. Finally, we offer a leadership program called Transforming the Future specifically for Business School students, on how businesses can make a positive

contribution to solving global challenges.

### Research for the SDGs – What

Let's move now to research for the SDGs, and what universities need to do differently in this area. As I mentioned earlier, research at universities is fundamental for the successful implementation of all of the SDGs. For example, it can help with:

- Understanding the basic challenges
- Localizing the SDG agenda
- Developing pathways and solutions
- Developing and incubating technologies
- Supporting the implementation of the SDGs

(for example through behaviour change approaches)

- Helping with developing indicators for monitoring the SDGs

### Research for the SDGs – How

While traditional disciplinary research is very important for the SDGs, if we really want to solve the complex SDG challenges in the real world, we need research that leads to action. This requires universities to support newer and different research approaches and to work actively to bridge the research-policy divide. For example:

- Interdisciplinary and integrative research
- Developing and undertaking the research in partnership with the organisations that will be implementing the actions – such as governments and businesses
  - Mission-oriented research that identifies specific challenges and bringing all the relevant stakeholders together to solve them
  - Research specifically on the SDGs framework and how to help governments and organizations implement it.

### Research for the SDGs – Examples

Here are three very brief examples of research for the SDGs from my university. There are many other things universities can do. The SDG 6 Working Group is a cross-sector group of water experts that we brought together to look at how monitoring and reporting on SDG 6 in Australia can be improved. Land Use Future is a

big and complex project that is looking at how SDGs around sustainable agriculture, climate change, biodiversity and water can be solved simultaneously; so, we can provide healthy food for a growing global population while achieving net zero emissions. And finally, Social Systems Evidence is a new initiative that is creating a free online repository of research evidence on what works to address the SDGs, in a way that is intuitive and easy to access for policy and decision makers.

### More information

I've covered a lot of topics relating to the role of universities in achieving the SDGs here today, but still barely scratched the surface. Here are some resources for those who want to learn

more.

Firstly, I would like to recommend a guide we produced called "Getting Started with SDGs in Universities". This is a very practical and concise guide and provides a great overview of how universities contribute to the SDGs, a step-by-step process for engagement and tools, case studies and resources to inspire action. For those interested in looking more deeply at teaching for the SDGs, some useful organizations to look up are: the SDG Academy, SDSN Youth , UN PRME (which stands for Principles for Responsible Management Education), and UNESCO's pages on the SDGs . And for those interested in research, good places to start are the Sustainable Development Solutions Network and Future Earth .



Mustafa Mastoor

“

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS CAN BE A SOLUTION FOR ERADICATING AND PREVENTING THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN AFGHANISTAN.

Mustafa Mastoor  
Minister of Economy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan



**Dr. Hussain Etemadi**  
R&D Director (OHG)

*“What Role Can Universities Play in Helping Afghan Government and International Agencies in Implementing the SDGs”*

The history of Industrial Revolution dates back to the 18th century. It Started in England and following that spread to the other Western European Countries. Before the Industrial Revolution, the speed, level and impact of industrialization was not as significant as after that. As the result of rapid economic development, environmental pollutions and social dissatisfaction increased and in some cases led to historical unrest and uprising. Lack of enough experience and knowledge and also limited financial resources to mitigate the negative impacts of rapid developments was the main challenges by that time. Nowadays, there is a consensus that development is a multidimensional process. It consists of different goals and specific agendas. They should be achieved through well designed policies and strategies. Although increasing per capita income is important, but economic development should move beyond it; poverty reduction, equal opportunities, better health and education should be the focus of economic development and ‘environmental protection’ should not be neglected.

The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development is one of the most ambitious, prestigious and important global agreements in recent history: it

includes 17 goals and 169 targets. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at its core, is a guide to tackling the world's most pressing challenges – such as poverty and economic growth, social inclusion, environmental sustainability and peace and good governance to all countries and all people by 2030. SDG 4 specifically insists on “equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality education and supply of qualified teachers.” Universities, as education centers, should play a leading role in the implementation of the SDGs. To do so, they need to increase their internal capacities. They need to provide their students with the knowledge, skills and motivation to understand and address the SDGs properly. As dedicated places for research including SDGs research, universities should address sustainability at the early stages of different studies/projects.

Furthermore, universities have access to experienced academic persons and also large concentrations of young and curious people who are passionate, creative and have a desire for a better world. Universities can also hold the position of neutral and trusted stakeholder among government bodies, private sectors, local people and international organizations. This opportunity should be used to educate the public and private sectors, advocate for the SDGs and initiate and facilitate cross-sectoral dialogue. SDGs is not a blue print, universities need to contextualize and localize SDGs and its criteria, indicators and measures in Afghanistan based on location, gender, religion and income.

Finally yet importantly, a sustainable development approach in each country should be comprehensive and inclusive. SDGs should be based on the people’s capacity, available resources and local conditions, and the main beneficiaries of economic development/sustainable development should be ordinary people. No one should be left behind!



**Mr. Qayoom Suroush**  
Project Manager (AREU)

*“Findings about Research Paper “Illicit Economies and SDG16 in Afghanistan” the challenges of doing research on SDGs in Afghanistan, lessons learnt and recommendations”*

There are four main challenges of conducting research on SDGs in Afghanistan. These are lack of reliable data, lack of public awareness on SDGs, no integration with national programs and no proper reporting mechanisms.

First of all, lack of coordination and data sharing continue to be challenging and have contributed to a status quo that is sporadic in the nature of work on the SDGs alignment and planning. There are serious gaps in the data collected during the course of the research and many of the data available are of uncertain quality and contain noteworthy contradictions.

Secondly, Majority of the participants of the multi stakeholders’ SDGs orientation workshops on the agriculture and natural resources management sectors in all the 34 provinces were quite unfamiliar with the terms and concepts surrounding the SDGs.

Thirdly, there is no indication of how national development plans are comprehensively aligned with the SDGs, or, at least there is no clear indication of the relevance and priorities with specific reference to the particular SDGs, although the ANPDF is clear on Afghanistan’s development priorities.

Finally, there is no proper reporting mechanism to convey the decisions taken in the working groups back to the technical departments or the SDGs experts/focal points to the ministries.



This policy brief by AREU aims to highlight existing gaps in SDGs not explicitly dealing with illicit economies using the case of Afghanistan as an example where fragility and insecurity are among the main reasons for under development.

One of the researches that AREU is currently doing is the SDG 16 which is about promoting peace. AREU is doing research on how the SDGs 16 has failed to explicitly address the illicit economy of Afghanistan. The SDGs 16 indicators are Illicit Financial Flows and Small Arms Control. AREU argues that tracing the illicit financial flows’ value is challenging, if not impossible in Afghanistan, due to factors such as Hawala System. In addition, seizing and controlling small arms and light weapons in the middle of ongoing conflicts is only wishful thinking, and with tens of illegal cross border transit as well as corruption in the system, it will be difficult to control the number of small arms getting into the country. Thus, relying on numbers and statistics for measuring achievement, which is a general trend for SDGs, could be misleading.

In another example, out of 31 health-related SDG indicators, the ministry has not developed Afghanistan-SDG indicators for 10 and not yet set a baseline for three. Most Afghanistan-SDG indicators for 10 and not yet set a baseline for three. Most Afghanistan-SDG and indicators have remained the same as in the general SDG document. Interestingly, the ministry had not yet set a baseline for maternal mortality ratio, neonatal mortality rate and under-five mortality rate by the end of the data collection on July 29, 2017. The reason is claimed to be a lack of accurate and credible statistics.

The main findings of the researches are as follows:  
1. The involvement of non-state institutions and actors, civil society, policy and research organizations, academic and the public appears to be symbolic.

2. The health related targets and indicators are modified to fit the national context. Participants have noted a lack of capacity and resources, poor baseline data, a focus on data management rather than programmatic change and transformative governance and a failure to recognize the role of the private sector as some of the challenges for SDG implementation.

The policy recommends addressing Illicit Economy, Wide-range Partnerships, Proper Monitoring and reporting and defining explicit roles for policy and research institutions.



**Ms. Fiona Gall**  
Director ACBAR

*“How to create an inclusive coordination to achieve sustainable development for Afghanistan through a new collective approach”*

She began with speaking about the role of NGOs and CSO in achieving the SDGs. She added that there are around 20 NGO/CSO representatives in the 4 SDGs working groups, including 2 coordination bodies in executive committee. Further, the NGOs report back on existing activities in semi-annual reporting format for NGOs in Ministry of Economy. This is currently being revised to include ASDGs. In addition to above, the NGOs lobby with donors and embassies for funds to implement priority A-SDGs. NGOs bring expertise when required and disseminate ASDGs to provincial level stakeholders and communities through their own channels and monitors the progress.

The challenges that exist are:

1. SDGs are supposed to be a whole society approach (“leave no one behind”) but planning is centralized and Government-led
2. How do we engage all actors?
3. Who should take forward responsibilities on sub-national and provincial levels?

Moving forward, she suggested that the Ministry of Economy should be the focal point and MoF

should provide budget framework and encourage initiatives. In addition, the SDG provincial working groups should be based on participation from the Government, Civil Society, and Private Sector in order to review progress and share practice.

She also insisted that Goal 16 should be our priority in a conflict country. Because due to conflict many indicators in Afghanistan are sliding backwards - we will have difficulty to meet targets by 2030. Moving forward, this goal should be the target for advocacy in civil society, NGOs, media, academia, private sector.

**UNIVERSITIES SHOULD THINK OF THE THINK TANKS TO SUPPORT DISCUSSIONS ACROSS THE GOVERNMENT.**

**Napeleon Navarro**  
Senior Deputy Country Director (UNDP)



# KATEB HOSPITAL



**OVER 10** YEARS  
OF BRILLIANT WORK IN  
MEDICAL EDUCATION



**EXPERIENCED  
STAFF**

24hour services  
In sections  
Internal Medicine, Pediatrician,  
Gynecology, General Surgery  
Equipped pharmacy, standard laboratories

# PANEL DISCUSSION

## PANEL DISCUSSION



**Mr. Zia Shefaie**  
Vice Chancellor for Admin and Finance  
(Kateb University)

### Kateb University and the SDGs: Past, Present, and Future

Universities have a critical role in the achievement of the SDG by its unique position within society. They can take active parts in attaining the SDGs through education & training, research, operations and governance, and external leadership.

Afghan Universities can play an active role in attaining the SDGs through incorporating SDGs as part of their curriculum in Afghanistan, mapping SDGs in their researches, embedding SDGs in their operations, governance and cultures, and working together and with other SDG stakeholders helping Afghanistan to achieve the SDGs.

Having diverse educational disciplines has enabled Kateb to be an interdisciplinary university with possibilities to focus on all three pillars of the SDGs. Kateb has established four research centers in the area of Economics, Health, Social Science and computer science for doing research and publishing research papers.

Relevant to SDGs, Kateb University has established Kateb Research Institute to particularly focus on SDGs.

Kateb University has also gained achievements related to the SDGs. These achievements are as follows:

1. 124 Master's students graduated in the field of Development Economics
  2. It hosted a Workshop on SDGs conducted by Ministry of Economy and Executive Committee on SDGs; and more than 260 students and teachers participated.
  3. Three SDGs workshops have been conducted by the university in order to increase students' awareness about SDGs
  4. A conference was arranged on Surficial Water Management in which Minister of Energy and Water, Minister of Government for Disaster Affairs and Head of Water Resource Center at Kabul University were the speakers and panelist.
  5. KU facilitated the first ever international medical conference where 10 medical researchers presented their researches.
  6. It initiated SDG conference (Today's conference) using its own resources in order to bring together Universities and research institutions to work together on SDGs
  7. A total of 151 Master theses published related to SDGs in areas of Economics, Social and Environmental issues.
  8. A total number of 14 ISI (International Scientific Indexing) papers published in impact factor international journals pertaining to SDG3
  9. 30 books have been published in the areas of health, education, economics, human rights and peace
- Moreover, Kateb has served as a platform to support Afghanistan development through providing scholarship grants to students, paying for the teachers who taught students in deprived

provinces, providing free legal services to women and children at Katebs' Law Clinic and free educational services to orphanage.

Kateb University has future plans for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Afghanistan. These future plans are:

- Kateb University has future plans for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Afghanistan. These future plans are:
  - building the capacity of faculties to incorporate SDG courses as part of Kateb Curriculum in consultation with international partners
  - doing research on SDGs with contribution of AREU, George Mason University, SDSN and Monash Development Institute.
  - embedding SDGs in Kateb Operations and policies to implement SDGs in routine activities of Kateb University
  - providing affordable health services for

staff and students of Kateb University through Kateb Hospital.

In partnership with international and national partners will do the following:

- Reporting the conference to be published in SDSN Newsletter on September 1, 2019.
- Releasing a policy note with AREU
- Writing SDGs shadow report together ACBAR and other partners
  - Creating Data Center with TRENDS
  - Managing the SDGs regional conference with Middle East Universities
  - Arranging sectorial dialog in coordination with UNDP to discuss role of business and private sector in attaining the SDGs.
  - Submitting four concept papers to SDGs stakeholders to work SDGs in Universities in the area of curriculum, research, operations and partnership.



**Mr. Mohammad Nabi Sroosh**  
Director General of Policy & RBM (MoEC)

### "Status quo of SDGs in Afghanistan and express the future plan of MoE related to SDGs"

There are few challenges that exist in implementation of the SDGs. The first one is the lack of data and accurate figures and statistics availability to track the progress of the SDGs targets and goals. The second challenge that exists is that some of the nationally prioritized

programs at some government units are not based on the National SDGs. The third challenge is that five of the Nationally Prioritized Programs do not have an implementation plan. And finally the lack of budget for the achievement of the SDGs in Afghanistan is another major challenge.

The next steps are:

1. To prepare a 10 year strategy for the implementation of the ASDGs in Afghanistan;
2. To prepare a financial strategic for the implementation of the ASDGs in Afghanistan;
3. To Localize the process of the A-SDGs in sub-national level;
4. Align A-SDGs with national development frameworks;
5. Align the A-SDGs with national budget plan;
6. Invent mechanisms for Monitoring and Reporting of the ASDGs progress.



Shoab Khaksari

*Latest world trends of SDGs and the lessons learned to successfully implement SDGs in Afghanistan*

Mr. Khaksari spoke about the latest world trends about the implementation of the SDGs globally and their progress so far. He also spoke about the current coordination and challenges in the ways of implementing the SDGs in Afghanistan. He further spoke about the current programs being implemented by UNDP as a UN agency alongside the Ministry of Economy.

Mr. Khaksari began with the insisting on the point that enough communication and advocacy regarding awareness raising and the importance of the SDGs has not taken place in Afghanistan, however, for achieving the SDGs in the Afghan context, it is important that we invest in partnerships and cooperation among stakeholders ourselves in the current technological era and do not wait for other agencies to come and tell us about the SDGs. Khaksari said that the universities can play a huge role in this regards and in order to have the necessary information about the SDGs in Afghanistan he recommended the use of the National A-SDGs Documents and the meta-data which includes the details about measurement of progress towards the goals and indicators of the A-SDGs. Khaksari added that SDGs in not as complex as it seems and it is very comprehensive and that SDGs is not a new project that has not

been forced on anyone but will surely help in the development of the country.

Referring to the SDGs progress report 2019, Khaksari gave examples of progress in extreme poverty, decline in mortality rate and safety that is provided by immunization and vaccination, efforts for the protection of the climate and the re-positioning of the UN. Answering the questions as to why we are lagging behind the rank 153rd globally out of the total number of countries, he confirmed that entrenched deprivation, violent conflict and vulnerability. Khaksari further added that Afghanistan is not alone in terms of lagging behind the progress expected, and that global hunger is globally rise, half of the world’s population lacks access to basic health services and fortunately Afghanistan has made better progress in the world however it still remains a challenge. Khaksari also pointed toward the fact that half of the world’s children do not meet standards in reading and mathematics which shows the importance of education. Further, he also talked about the fact that only 28% of those with disabilities in the population receive cash in assistance and that women continue to face structural disadvantages and discrimination.

Proposing solutions, Khaksari pointed toward the importance of deper, faster and more ambitious response to all these challenges globally and within the Afghan context using the following ideas and suggestions:

1. Financing: Finding alternative financing sources, Involving the private sector and making optimal and good use of Finance and innovation when it comes to finance.
2. Effective Institutions: More local action and localization
3. Better use of data and technology: Use data to identify trade-offs and linkages between the SDGs and make informed investment decisions considering the interlinked and interdependent nature of SDGs.
4. Policies need to ensure that no one is left

behind keeping with the motto of SDGs and national efforts need to supported by International Cooperation. Systems built should be built as to reduce fragmentation.

Khaksari also talked about the support provided by UNDP to achieve the SDGs in Afghanistan. First, UNDP would provide support to government for Macro-Economic Modelling for Afghanistan that would simulate scenarios of investment in different sectors of the economy and how it would help the economy and the



Dr. Jasmine Bhatia  
Ph.D  
SOAS University of London

*“Impact of Universities Researches on Development of Countries: Best Practices and Strategies that Afghanistan Universities can follow*

Higher education contributes to development in two ways. First, by contributing to the development of a highly educated workforce, it improves economic, political, and social outcomes across the board. Higher education underpins all development targets, such as poverty reduction, health, and employment. Second, higher education institutions can help provide evidence-based data to governments, donors, and the public that can help inform local and national development policies and strategies.

One of the chief advantages of the higher education sector is that it can be seen as a

SDGs. Khaksari finally announcing that UNDP and the government would provide all the support possible to universities to play their role in achieving the SDGs in Afghanistan. But he said that the ideas as to how universities can help is the answer that universities know more than UNDP or the government does. For example, universities along the representatives in the media, help refine the meta-data for the SDGs indicators progress tracking.

relatively neutral and authoritative source of information – and while academics can work in partnership with governments, the private sector and civil society groups, preserving the independence of academic institutions can provide benefit and research that is more credible. Universities can also identify and explore questions - often big picture questions - that often get lost in the day-to-day aspects of policy making.

**Orzala Nemat**

**“AREU IS WILLING TO HAVE COOPERATION WITH ANY PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENTAL SECTORS IN ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENTAL GOALS IN AFGHANISTAN TO INFLUENCE THE POLICIES AND FUNCTIONING OF INSTITUTIONS.”**

**Dr. Orzala Nemat**  
Director (AREU)



# Kateb Professional Development Institute (KPD I)

Kateb Professional Development Institute (KPD I) was founded in 2011 as a practical learning center in conjunction with Kateb University.

KPD I sees students from all over the capital city of Kabul who come to join different courses. We are offering different range of professional courses including English Language, ACCA, computer, and other Accounting courses. Through these intensive courses students will acquire the necessary knowledge and sets of skills for professional and occupational communication in English, and pursue their career in accounting.

We are fully dedicated to updating our material in accordance to the needs of society and validating our diplomas and certificates which resulted in affiliation of KPD I with TESOL Institute of Vancouver Canada. Upon completion of our English study program, our students will be awarded with diplomas issued by TESOL Institute of Vancouver which make them in possession of an internationally known certificate that is valid throughout the globe.



## Kateb University Announces

## ACCA and FIA Classes

In partnership with



CENTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

# ADMISSIONS OPEN





# RESOLUTIONS

## RESOLUTIONS PROPOSED AS A RESULT OF THE CONFERENCE

1. H.E. Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive Officer of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan invited the universities of the country to join the Sustainable Development Goals Working Group to provide solutions in this area
2. Professor Jeffrey Sachs encouraged the University of Kateb to establish SDSN in Afghanistan
3. Mr. "Napoleon Navarro encouraged the university to become the think tank of government and private sector and you can follow the chines universities
4. H.E. Dr. Mustafa Mastoor, Minister of Economy proposed the idea of «One University - One Goal»
5. H.E. Dr. Mustafa Mastoor, Minister of Economy encouraged universities to localize, frame, and draft a National Strategy for Sustainable Development Goals (2020-2030)
6. H.E. Dr. Mustafa Mastoor, Minister of Economy encouraged universities to conduct research on Afghanistan's Sustainable Development Goals
7. United Nations Development Program - Afghanistan pledged to share information with universities and called on universities to cooperate in analyzing this information
8. The representative from the Central Statistics Organization of Afghanistan (CSO) requested Afghan universities to cooperate to collect information on Afghanistan's Sustainable Development Goals
9. The Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit and Kateb University agreed to release a joint statement on the results of this conference
10. The ACBAR Office and the University of Kateb are working together to deliver reports on Sustainable Development Goals - Afghanistan

# POSTCONFERENCE

## POST CONFERENCE PROGRESS

These progresses are between August 29, 2019 and October 15, 2019;

- 1) Kateb University and AREU have become members of the Executive Committee at SDGs
- 2) Kateb University has presented the conference result to the Executive Committee
- 3) Policy note is ready for donors, government institutions, research institutions and universities
- 4) Kateb University has participated in the working group
- 5) Executive Committee assigned Kateb University to develop TOR for Higher Education Working Group for SDGs
- 6) Kateb University has submitted the first draft of the TOR to co-chair of the Executive Committee
- 7) Kateb University has got membership of University Partnership Program of SDG Academy
- 8) Kateb University has had their first consultation meeting with SDSN on establishment of SDSN-Afghanistan. This is under development
- 9) Kateb University has attended meeting on Technical Working Group 3 (Health, Education, Environment and Social Protection)
- 10) Kateb University has conducted consultation meetings with Westminster University of UK and Auckland University of New Zealand to organize regional conference on SDGs.





# OUR PARTNERS



# OUR TEAM

## Techinal Committee (TC)



**Ali Ahmad Yousufi**  
Conference Director



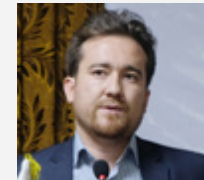
**Musa Jafari**  
Head of TC



**M. Wali Farhat**  
TC Member



**M. Zia Shefai**  
TC Member



**Mehdi Mohaqeq**  
TC Member



**Ahmad Mohammadi**  
TC Member



**Dawood Rezaei**  
TC Member



**Akbar Sarwari**  
TC Member

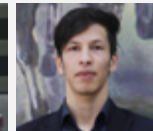
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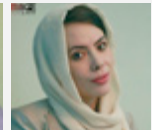
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**Safar Rahimi**  
Volunteer



**Nahida Jaffari**  
Volunteer



# ABOUT THE ORGANIZER

## ABOUT THE ORGANIZER

Kateb University is a pioneering private institution in the field of higher education in Afghanistan. In 2007, during an official ceremony with the presence of a group of faculty members, representatives of the mass media, members of the parliament and groups of students in the auditorium at the Ministry of Higher Education, KU achieved its official permit. Kateb held its first University Entrance Test (UET) in 2007, with the presence of the Ministry of Higher Education's Supervisory Committee, and 350 students from among the participants were admitted to enter Kateb University.

The number of students and teachers are increasing rapidly, in the year 2010, approximately 1200 students were studying at the University and in 2012 the number of students reached to 2005 students, in ten academic disciplines. This year, approximately 130 full-time and part-time instructors and teach at the University. In accordance with the regulations of the Ministry of Higher Education, instructors only with Ph.D. and Masters' degrees are granted to teach at Kateb University.

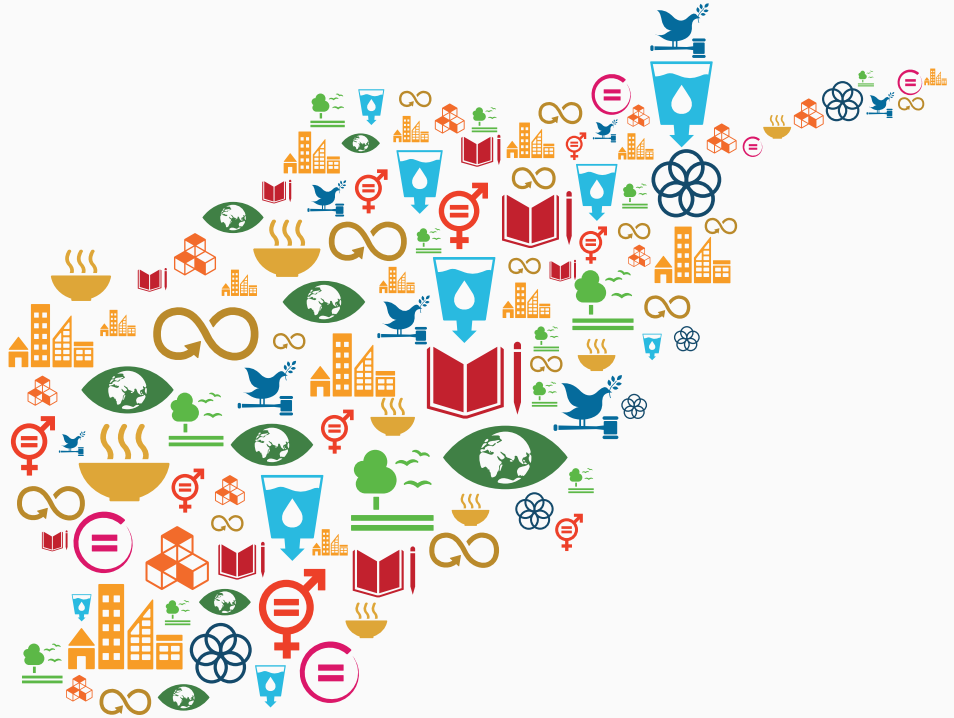
### *Commitment to Achieving SDGs*

Kateb University (KU) is committed to actively take part in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Afghanistan. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their associated 169 targets were agreed by all countries in 2015 and call for a universal action to end extreme poverty, protect the environment, address climate change, and encourage good governance and make sure that all people enjoy peace and security. The advancement and growth of each country rely on the intellectual development of the community especially of the younger generation. One of the most valuable resources available to the community is the university. Universities are the centers of research and achievement of the basic points of science. Thus, Universities provide students with opportunities to acquire knowledge by practicing, exploring, and critically analyzing attitudes and behaviours, and also practice life skills and draw action plans. In view of that, the graduates of these centers should be the next generation leaders, innovators, and thinkers who can insightfully understand the global challenges facing the world and the role they can play in rising to meet these challenges. Kateb University reinforces and underlies the principles of the Sustainable Development Goals through research and adaption of structures in all sectors especially in the field of training, academic disciplines and educational requirements. We at Kateb University will make every effort to ensure that KU as a higher educational institute will have significant impact on awareness and capacity building of community in order to institutionalize the new developmental pattern (sustainability), change fundamental assumptions, and find sustainable social, economic, environmental and technical solutions to these global problems.

# KATEB UNIVERSITY








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