

CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGS IN KAZAKHSTAN (2025)

Civil society recognizes Kazakhstan's government institutional efforts on the SDGs—adopted strategies, coordination platforms, and digital monitoring tools. However, real progress remains uneven. According to the People's Scorecard 2025, the overall SDG achievement rate is only 22%; Goal 4 reached 53%.

Socio-economic vulnerability remains high. Many citizens have extremely low incomes: one-third face debt burdens, and over half of household budgets go to food. Inequality is reinforced by structural corruption—1% of the population holds nearly 30% of national wealth, while the bottom 50% holds only 5%. This restricts access to resources and obstructs progress on Goals 1 and 10.

Women's participation in public governance remains below 18%. The absence of anti-discrimination legislation fuels violence and hate crimes, including against LGBTIQ+ persons. Civic space continues to shrink, and pressure on human rights defenders persists, undermining SDG 16.

Environmental risks around the Aral and Caspian Seas, Lake Balkhash, the Semipalatinsk test site, and industrial cities are intensified by cumulative climate impacts and anthropogenic pressures, weak local programs, and limited community engagement. Decisions about environmental goals show major setbacks: land and water degradation, pollution, and biodiversity loss continue. Cross-border cooperation remains largely symbolic, with minimal results.

To achieve the SDGs, Kazakhstan must reform governance systems—guided by nature-based processes, free from vested economic interests, and based on inclusive public participation, circular economy, and climate-resilient strategies.

We call for urgent and systemic action: rule of law, fair trial, and inclusive partnerships with civil society, transparent governance, stronger social protection, and strategic measures for climate adaptation and nature restoration—serving both present and future generations.

Questions:

1. What steps will the government of Kazakhstan take to enhance transparency, social protection, and reduce inequality?
2. How will it ensure effective CSO partnerships throughout SDG implementation?