

RESULTS REPORT
OF THE REGIONAL
COLLABORATIVE
PLATFORM
FOR EUROPE AND
CENTRAL ASIA
2025



UNITED NATIONS
REGIONAL
COLLABORATIVE
PLATFORM



EUROPE AND
CENTRAL ASIA

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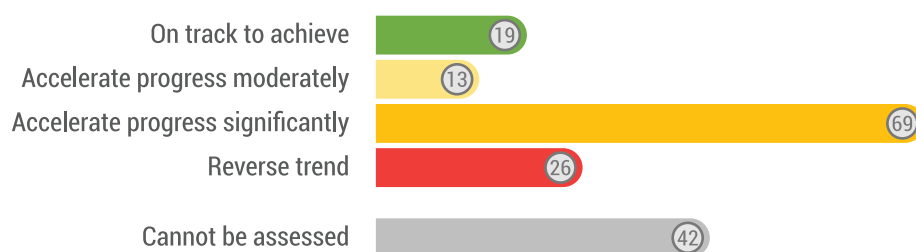
I. Introduction and regional development context

1. In 2025, the Regional Collaborative Platform for Europe and Central Asia (RCP) strengthened its role as the central mechanism connecting regional UN capacities with country-level demand, ensuring coherent, timely and strategic support across the region. Building on several years of reform of the UN development system, the RCP continued aligning system-wide expertise and cultivating a forward-thinking culture behind the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a clear focus on driving acceleration in the areas most critical for the region's transitions: climate and environment, sustainable food systems, digital transformation, social protection and jobs, and gender equality.
2. The regional context in 2025 remained marked by persistent and interconnected crises and high levels of uncertainty. Rising inequalities, demographic shifts, elevated costs of living, the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss, and declining trust in institutions led to a continually challenging development context. The ongoing war in Ukraine continued to generate humanitarian, development and reconstruction needs, while its broader socioeconomic impacts reverberated across neighbouring countries.
3. Uncertainties left their mark on the macroeconomic development of the region. Economic growth in the EU remained subdued at estimated 1.5 per cent in 2025, reflecting external headwinds and persistent structural challenges. Inflationary pressures in the euro area were gradually easing. The fiscal outlook is shaped by the need

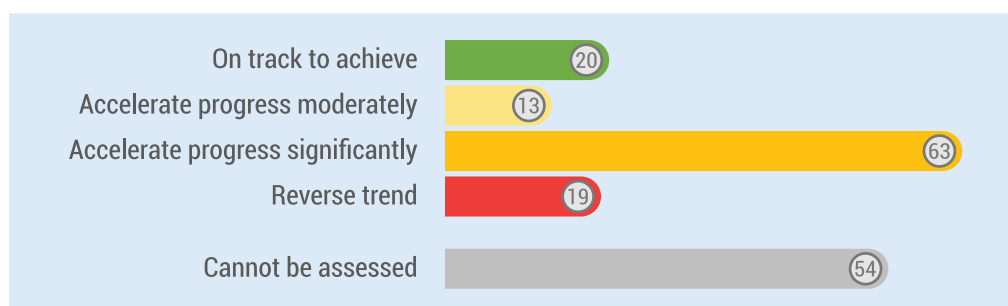
for consolidation while facing growing spending demands for defence, energy security, the low-carbon and digital transitions and demographic trends that raise pension and healthcare costs.¹

4. Aggregate GDP growth in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Georgia moderated to an estimated 2.2 per cent in 2025, largely due to a sharp slowdown in the economy of the Russian Federation in line with the progressive tightening of economic sanctions. In contrast, most countries in South Caucasus and Central Asia have maintained strong economic momentum.²

5. Overall, progress towards the SDGs continued to be insufficient and even slowed down, reflecting the negative impacts of multiple crises and conflicts, structural challenges and shifting priorities. According to the 2026 UNECE SDG Progress Report³, if the current path is followed, the UNECE region as a whole will achieve only 19 targets by 2030. This is 15 per cent of the 127 assessed targets, and a decline by two targets compared to the estimation from last year. For 13 targets (10 per cent), progress is heading in the right direction and requires a moderate acceleration, and for 69 targets (54 per cent), progress is insufficient, requiring a significant acceleration to close the gap by 2030. The current trend is in reverse for 26 targets (20 per cent), which is up by 6 targets compared to the estimation from last year. Data availability has improved and allows assessing the progress against two more targets than last year.



6. The first separate progress assessment for the 17 programme countries of the region⁴ carried out in the 2026 report reveals a similar picture. Progress in that group is on track for 20 targets (17 per cent); 13 targets (11 per cent) require moderate acceleration; 63 targets (55 per cent) require significant acceleration; and for 19 targets (17 per cent) the trend is in reverse.



7. At the same time, a closer analysis reveals that the vast majority of measurable targets in the region – almost 80 per cent – are still moving in the right direction. Despite crises, conflicts, and other pressures, the overall

¹ World Economic Situation and Prospects 2026, United Nations, New York, 2026

² World Economic Situation and Prospects 2026, United Nations, New York, 2026

³ UNECE, Sustainable Development in the UNECE Region: Trends and Actions in 2026, Geneva, 2026. See also snapshot of SDG progress in the UNECE region and its programme countries in the annex, figures 1 and 2. The representation of the status of SDGs and targets throughout the text is drawn from the 2026 SDG progress report.

⁴ Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

picture on SDG progress across the UNECE region therefore shows important signs of resilience, reflecting sustained policy efforts and considerable development gains achieved.

8. While the Europe and Central Asia region includes the member states of the European Union (EU) and other high-income Western and Northern European countries, support to the country level was targeted to the 17 countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia with UN development system present under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinators (RCs), as well as to Kosovo⁵.

9. In this context, the RCP focused particularly on strengthening the alignment between evolving country needs and regional assets, increasing the responsiveness and coherence of Issue-Based Coalitions (IBCs), and ensuring that global agreements and processes translated into practical, actionable guidance for UNCTs.

10. Despite these challenges, the region demonstrated notable sources of resilience and opportunity. Digital connectivity continued to expand; countries advanced reforms linked to green transition pathways; and youth engagement, innovation ecosystems and regional cooperation platforms strengthened. The development of 12 new Cooperation Frameworks for implementation beginning in 2026 created an important window to embed strategic foresight and forward-looking approaches to SDG acceleration, informed by strengthened regional analytical products and the RCP's maturing demand-driven support model.

11. In 2025, the RCP's work continued to reflect the UN development system's commitment to integrated, risk-informed and forward-looking support, essential as the region navigates ongoing crises.



⁵ References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of UN SC Resolution 1244 (1999).

II. Highlights of system-wide results at the regional level

12. During the 2025 reporting period, the RCP addressed SDG progress acceleration opportunities mainly through its IBCs and other regional interagency groups in support of both member States and UN entities at country-level. These mechanisms have matured significantly with a more structured pipeline currently in place, country-tailored support embedded in CCA/Cooperation Framework cycles, strong regional analytical products and clearer positioning around SDG transitions.

13. The RCP delivered targeted and demand-driven support on critical enablers and accelerators of sustainable development: gender equality; large movements of people, displacement and resilience; climate change and environment; sustainable food systems, social protection and jobs, digital transformation, and data and statistics. In addition, support and quality assurance to CCAs and Cooperation Frameworks have been provided by the Peer Support Group (PSG) through direct PSG–RC sessions, focal point support to RCOs/UNCTs, and quality assurance reviews of 12 Cooperation Frameworks, multiple Country Analyses, and the Albania and Tajikistan roadmaps.

14. The development of the 12 new Cooperation Frameworks during 2025 provided a strategic opportunity to inject regional expertise into country-level dynamics. Multiple IBCs were proactively engaged with the Peer Support Group and the UN Teams to ensure reflection of key regional priorities and to avail knowledge to the prioritisation processes. One example of progress is climate change now being mainstreamed across all 2026-2030 Cooperation Frameworks, with an increasing focus on just transition as a critical component. In the ECA region all new Cooperation Frameworks were formally presented to the RCP, creating an opportunity for the Regional Directors to reflect on them and strengthening ownership and accountability for their implementation.

15. Regional efficiency initiatives have been pursued by the Regional Operations Management Team (R-OMT), notably through support to the new Istanbul Common Premise project, strengthening operational performance and regional results in 2025. Europe and Central Asia reported USD 5,755,570 in efficiencies in 2025, marking an 18% increase over estimated benefits (USD 4,890,115), and projects USD 6,177,395 for 2026, with 83% of these benefits expected from Administration Services.

16. During 2025, six RCP meetings were held, including the annual meeting chaired by the DSG. In November, the RCP also convened a two-day online retreat, which allowed for more in-depth discussion on ongoing reforms, as well as reflection on collaboration and future priorities. To inform this retreat, a survey of the regional mechanisms was conducted, capturing lessons learned and challenges encountered over the five years since the establishment of the RCP and the IBCs. The survey showed broad recognition that the IBCs have evolved significantly since 2019, becoming more responsive to UNCT needs and providing meaningful policy guidance and analysis. The discussions also underscored the continued importance of flexible and adaptive coordination mechanisms, as reflected in the agreement to sunset the IBC on Youth and adjust the scope of the IBC on Gender Equality to also cover Human Rights.

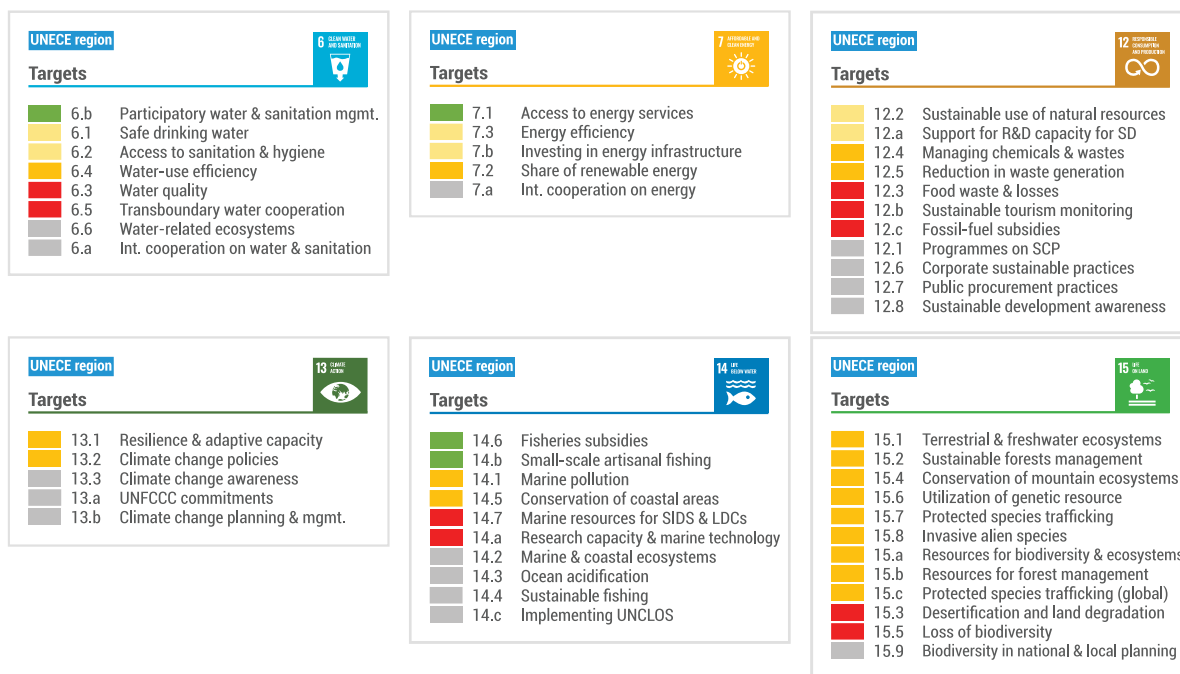
17. Engagement between UN Teams and the regional inter-agency mechanisms improved during 2025. A total of 37 requests for support were submitted by the region's 18 UN Teams. These requests were closely monitored, and the RCP received regular updates on the status of IBC responses. Of the support provided in 2025, 69 per cent was in the form of technical assistance, followed by 28 per cent policy support and 3 per cent advocacy. Most support was delivered through online meetings or webinars (63 per cent), followed by in-person support (21 per cent), while knowledge products, policy briefs and training each accounted for around 16 per cent.

A. Policy support

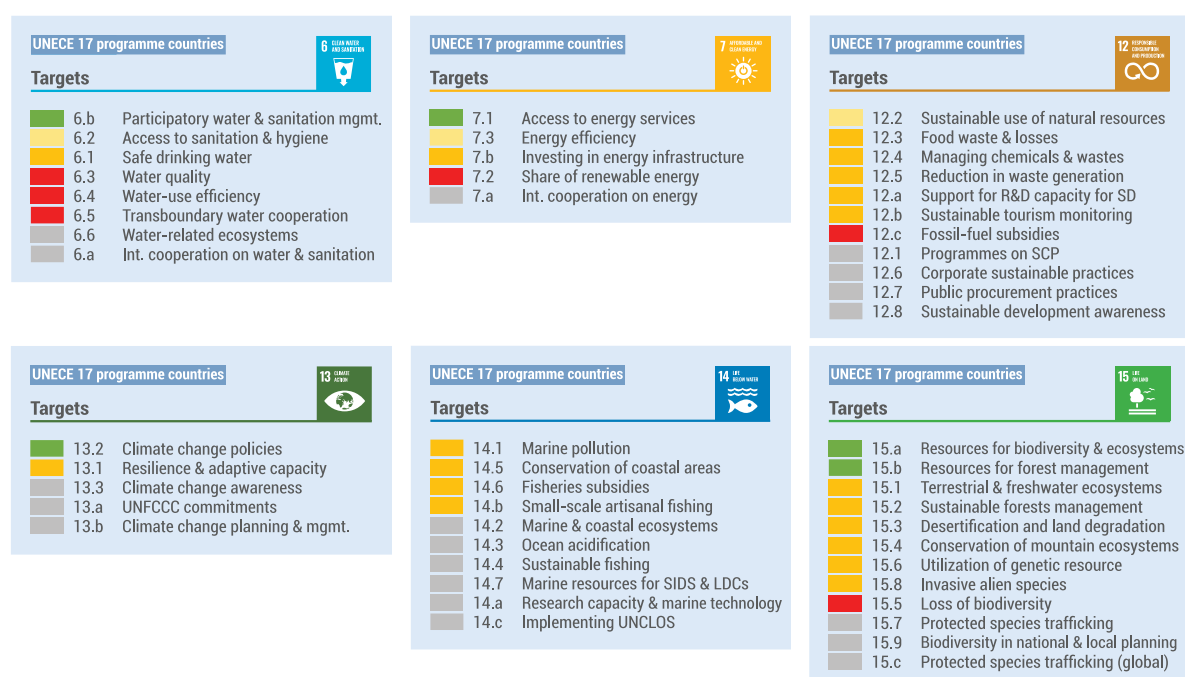
Support to SDG acceleration through sustainable transition areas

1) Environment and Climate Change

18. The region as a whole remains significantly off track to reach the goals related to climate change, environment and energy (SDGs 6, 7, 12-15). Merely 4 out of 51 targets in this cluster are on track; 17 are in need of significant acceleration; and for 9 targets the trend is reversed, including on water quality, transboundary water cooperation, fossil fuel subsidies, desertification and land degradation, and loss of biodiversity:



19. The situation in the programme countries for this cluster is only slightly different: 5 targets are on track, 18 require significant acceleration, and 6 are reversing. In these countries, renewable energy generation capacity also needs to improve, as it currently stands at only about half of the regional average.



20. In 2025, the IBC on Environment and Climate Change continued to provide integrated, demand-driven and system-wide policy support to UN Teams across Europe and Central Asia. The IBC focused on biodiversity mainstreaming, transboundary water governance, just transitions, disaster risk reduction, sustainable urbanization and climate finance, reinforcing comparative advantage of the UN system in delivering coherent environmental policy advice.

21. A major regional contribution was the development and dissemination of the guidance “[Mainstreaming Biodiversity into CCAs and UNSDCFs](#)”, accompanied by a [Policy Brief on Key Advocacy Messages on Biodiversity](#). Two regional webinars, organized with the UN Environment Management Group, helped UNCTs apply the guidance and better understand biodiversity financing mechanisms, including the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund and BIOFIN. These products directly informed Cooperation Framework processes and were coordinated with the Peer Support Group (PSG) to strengthen quality assurance and the integration of environmental considerations.

22. To facilitate continued efforts to address air pollution across the Western Balkans, the IBC developed a thematically focused knowledge product. The [factsheet](#) provides a regional overview of the air pollution situation, highlights ongoing initiatives, and outlines priority areas for Western Balkans governments to address this challenge, through strengthening regional cooperation, supporting evidence-based policymaking, and facilitating partnerships that advance integrated solutions to air pollution.

23. Building on prior analytical work by the IBC on [water initiatives and transboundary water management in Central Asia](#), the IBC convened follow-up policy dialogues on transboundary water management in Central Asia and the South Caucasus at the request of Resident Coordinators. These dialogues identified concrete programmatic entry points and leading to inclusion of a special chapter on transboundary water management in the CCAs of these countries.

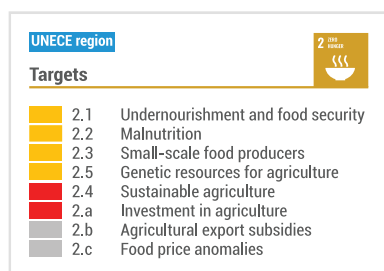
24. To strengthen integrated approaches, the IBC co-organized a regional webinar with the IBC on Gender Equality on [Gender-Responsive Just Transitions](#), responding to requests from Kyrgyzstan, Serbia and Türkiye. It also issued a Policy Brief on Financing a Just Transition to the Green Economy in Serbia and developed a region-wide concept note “Greener Cities, Resilient Communities: Integrated Approaches to Urban Sustainability” based on a request from Türkiye.

25. The IBC strengthened regional understanding of [Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems \(MHEWS\) and the Early Warnings for All](#) initiative through a regional webinar structured around survey findings from UNCTs. The dialogue reinforced coordinated inter-agency approaches to disaster risk reduction and resilience-building.

26. Tailored technical support was delivered to Serbia on financing a just transition; to Kyrgyzstan on the use of geospatial technologies and AI for environmental analysis; and, in response to a request from North Macedonia, on financing sustainable development initiatives, with the latter support also made available to all countries in the ECA region. Through these actions, the IBC strengthened policy coherence between global environmental agendas and national planning processes, while working closely with the PSG to ensure integration into Cooperation Framework design.

2) Sustainable Food Systems

27. On SDG 2 on hunger and food security, no target is on track either across the region as a whole or in programme countries. While the number of countries in the broader region with persistent undernourishment has fallen by one third, the prevalence of food insecurity has increased. Access to sufficient and nutritious food therefore remains uneven across the UNECE region. In contrast to the wider region, governments in the programme countries are allocating a greater share of public expenditure to agriculture, and the area of productive agricultural land is expanding.



28. In 2025, the IBC on Sustainable Food Systems (IBC-SFS) strengthened its role as the regional coordination mechanism linking UNCTs to the UN Food Systems Summit +4 (UNFSS+4) process and advancing systemic food systems transformation. Tailored debrief meetings were held with several UN RCOs to share updates on the outcomes of UNFSS+4. In addition, UNECE assumed the role of IBC-SFS Co-Chair, signalling growing interest and strengthened commitment in this area.

29. The IBC co-organized the [UNFSS+4 Regional Preparatory Meeting for Europe and Central Asia](#) on the margins of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD) 2025. Outcomes were consolidated into a regional report and fed into global processes, ensuring that regional priorities informed the Secretary-General's report presented at UNFSS+4 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

30. Under the Convergence Initiative lead by the UNFSS Hub, the IBC supported the development of Convergence Action Blueprints in [Türkiye](#) and [Kazakhstan](#), strengthening the integration of food systems and climate action.

31. The IBC convened thematic dialogues through the Food Systems Talks series, including two Talks on [transformative innovation](#) to scale new solutions and [inner dimensions of food systems change](#).

32. Responding to country demand, the IBC provided tailored support to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kyrgyzstan. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, engagements supported application of the [Food Systems Thinking Guide](#) to strengthen systemic inter-agency collaboration and identify entry points on food waste, non-communicable diseases, One Health and social inclusion. In Kyrgyzstan, [a webinar](#) addressed legislative and fiscal tools, alongside behavioral science insights, to discourage unhealthy food consumption and promote better nutritional choices. Collaboration with the PSG ensured food systems transformation approaches were reflected in Cooperation Framework quality assurance processes. Throughout 2025, further guidance and information was shared in response to ad hoc requests from UN RC offices (e.g. Belarus).

33. The launch of the [2024 Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in Europe and Central Asia](#) with the support of the members of the IBC on Sustainable Food Systems provided a flagship evidence base, focusing on sustainable water management. Progress was made on the multi-country school feeding landscape analysis, leveraging modern data analytics, with data collection completed in six countries and draft findings shared at the Regional Nutrition Partnership Platform in Tajikistan.

3) Digital Transformation

34. Access to Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and the internet is widespread in the region as a whole, and the related target 9.c is on track, albeit with slower progress in programme countries:



35. The UN Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia strengthened coordination on digitalization as a cross-cutting accelerator, fostering digital fluency as a core component of the UN 2.0 'quintet of

change'. An updated edition of the [UN Digital Development Toolbox](#) was produced as a living resource to support UN Development System delivery on digital transformation.

36. The group organized [a series of thematic webinars](#) for Resident Coordinators and UNCTs on universal meaningful connectivity, digital public infrastructure, artificial intelligence for sustainable development, cybersecurity and digitalization of public services. These events facilitated peer learning and dissemination of practical tools.

37. At RFSD 2025, the group co-led the [SDG 8 peer learning roundtable](#) on just digital and green transitions and organized side events on [bridging the digital gender divide](#) and on the [WSIS+20 review process](#).

38. Tailored support included co-creation of Digital Development Profiles for [Ukraine](#) and [Kosovo](#)⁶, and thematic support to North Macedonia and Georgia. Coordination with the PSG supported the integration of digital transformation priorities into Cooperation Framework processes.

4) Social Protection and Jobs

39. The region has strong social protection coverage overall, but support for the unemployed remains insufficient. In a quarter of UNECE countries, less than 10 per cent of unemployed are provided with cash benefits. The programme countries have to reverse the decline in the proportion of government budget on essential services, especially on health and social protection. Progress towards the social protection target 1.3 therefore requires significant acceleration both in the region as a whole and in programme countries:

1.3 Social protection

40. In 2025, the IBC on Social Protection and Jobs aligned its work with the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions and strengthened regional knowledge exchange on extending social protection coverage and building shock-responsive systems.

41. The IBC organized technical webinars on labour formalization (ILO Recommendation 204), actuarial best practices, unemployment benefits for the self-employed, and [the regional companion report](#) to the World Social Protection Report 2024–26. These exchanges facilitated dialogue between policymakers, UN Teams and technical experts.

42. Tailored support was provided to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo⁷. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the IBC supported engagement with the Global Accelerator and provided inputs to a joint proposal under the Multi-Trust Fund window. In Kosovo⁸, technical guidance was provided on developing a social protection offer. Engagement with the PSG ensured that social protection priorities were reflected in emerging Cooperation Frameworks.

Support in other crucial policy areas

5) Gender Equality

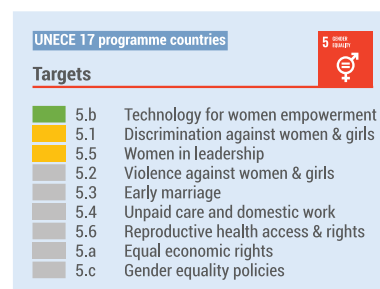
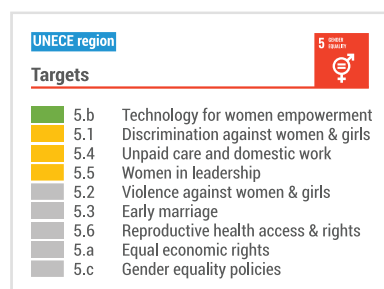
43. Progress on gender equality (SDG 5) can only be measured for less than half of the targets for the region overall, and for one third of the targets in programme countries, pointing to persistent data gaps and measurement challenges. Moreover, improvements continue to be slow in several areas, including on improving policy and legal frameworks to combat discrimination and promote gender equality, with large variation in progress between

⁶ References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of UN SC Resolution 1244 (1999).

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countries within the region. The assessment for the programme countries aligns with that for the region overall, with the exception that there is insufficient data on unpaid care and domestic work.



44. The IBC on Gender Equality strengthened system-wide accountability and provided policy advice and advocacy to ensure gender equality remained central to regional SDG acceleration efforts.

45. The IBC contributed to the design and implementation of the RFSD Roundtable on SDG 5, facilitating dialogue among governments, civil society, and UN entities. In line with the UN system-wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan and its Clarion Call, the IBC-GE also strengthened its internal tool for RCs and UNCTs in Europe and Central Asia on responding to pushback against gender equality, originally developed in 2023. The updated product includes deeper and more current regional data and analysis, clearer concepts, and revised key messages. The draft paper, *Gender Backlash in Europe and Central Asia: A Systemic Crisis for Multilateralism and Key UN Response Messages* (under consultation), drew on inputs from 11 UNCTs and on reflections among IBC members on the drivers and manifestations of backlash, including through the use of behavioural science approaches to better understand and address underlying biases and social norms.

46. The IBC also issued a joint regional advocacy piece during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign and organized a briefing for Gender Theme Groups on engagement in intergovernmental processes. Collaboration with other IBCs and the PSG ensured stronger gender equality integration across thematic areas and Cooperation Frameworks.

47. Under the Joint SDG Fund, a regional programme on strengthening SDG 5 data systems was implemented by UNFPA and UN Women in cooperation with DCO in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova with the support of the IBC for Gender Equality. This 15-month programme has helped to transform national statistical systems across pilot countries and more broadly through the regional component through: [filling data gaps](#), translating gender data into concrete policy impact and strengthening the accessibility, communication, and usability of gender statistics. As concrete example Moldova and Kyrgyzstan were supported to undertake a survey to improve reporting on SDG 5.2.1-5.2.2.

48. In response to feedback from Resident Coordinators, a review of the Terms of Reference was undertaken, resulting in an expanded scope of the IBC work to include human rights, with OHCHR joining as co-chair from 2026 onward.

6) Large Movements of People, Displacement and Resilience

49. Significantly faster progress is needed in the region as well as in programme countries to achieve safe migration and mobility (target 10.7):



50. The IBC on Large Movements of People, Displacement and Resilience, together with the Regional UN Network on Migration (R-NW), advanced regional coordination on the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

51. Preparations for the [2026 International Migration Review Forum \(IMRF\)](#) advanced through regional briefings and dissemination of information notes clarifying stakeholder participation modalities. A targeted consultation with non-governmental stakeholders in Europe and Central Asia was undertaken in preparation for the IMRF process. The IBC/R-NW also supported whole-of-UN engagement in the implementation, follow-up, and review of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) through regular information-sharing and coordination with UN agencies ahead of IMRF 2026.

52. The IBC and the [R-NW facilitation team](#) met in Geneva in May 2025 for a two-day global workshop to take stock of achievements and lessons learned from GCM-related capacity-building support to UNCTs. It yielded global rollout plans for 2025–2026 to advance capacity building through UN Network on Migration tools, including the Gender-Responsive Implementation Tool (GRIT) and the GCM indicators. It also served to reflect on and agree upon the role of regional facilitation teams in supporting national preparations for the IMRF 2026 with concrete ways to support national preparations ahead of the IMRF 2026, including strengthening governments' capacity to implement the [Network's 6-step guidance](#) and supporting the development of voluntary national GCM reviews, among them through organisation of whole-of-government and whole-of-society consultations..

53. Through active knowledge management, targeted information and updates were disseminated among members to ensure reflection of regional perspective in ongoing global processes including consultations on the UN Network on Migration Workplan 2025–2026, the 21 May Briefings for stakeholders and the UN system, and the 6th Annual Meeting of the UN Network on Migration.

54. Providing direct country support, the IBC helped establish the Country UN Network on Migration in Montenegro through strategic guidance to the UNCT, supporting the preparation of the TOR and workplan and the official launch of the Network.

7) Data and Statistics

55. The Regional Coordination Group on Data and Statistics continued to facilitate knowledge exchange among UN agencies to strengthen data ecosystems and statistical collaboration in the region. In December 2025, a cross-regional seminar for Data Management Officers from ECA and Asia-Pacific was held under the leadership of DCO, UNECE, and ESCAP. During the year, three sessions were organized on: lessons learned from the census cycle and collaboration on census analytical volumes; SDG data gaps and discrepancies between national and international data and indicators; and the impact of demographic shifts in the EECCA region.

8) Regional efficiencies

56. The Regional Operations Management Team (R-OMT) strengthened governance and coordination for the Istanbul Common UN Premises project. A UN Project Board and Working Group were established, staffing projections for more than 850 personnel were aligned, and consolidated technical requirements were prepared to support negotiations with the Government of Türkiye. A safety and seismic assessment was also completed, and a milestone plan was shared with national counterparts, further reinforcing inter-agency coordination and operational efficiency.

9) Peer Support Group

57. In 2025, the PSG provided strategic planning support and quality assurance for the development of 12 new Cooperation Frameworks in the region. Quality reviews were conducted for all Cooperation Frameworks, as well as for multiple CCAs and roadmaps. Country-level sessions were also organized with Resident Coordinators

to strengthen strategic prioritization and the integration of cross-cutting issues, including human rights, gender equality, and leaving no one behind.

58. To enable more proactive support beyond quality assurance, PSG members were assigned as focal points for RCOs and UNCTs to accompany the Cooperation Framework design process. A mapping of elections and potential government changes across the ECA region in 2025 was also undertaken to inform multidimensional risk assessments. In addition, the integration of AI to streamline quality assurance processes was explored, through an AI-related analysis that identified the level and areas of PSG feedback integrated into Country Analyses and Cooperation Frameworks. A dedicated PSG session discussed tools used at UNDP and UNFPA and explored their application to quality assurance-related PSG processes.

59. The PSG further strengthened its own capacities through induction packages, strategic foresight training, and its annual retreat, enhancing its ability to play a fit-for-purpose role in navigating uncertainty and charting pathways to resilience. An analytical review of PSG comments also helped capture lessons learned for the 2026–2030 cycle. Through close collaboration with the IBCs, the PSG ensured that thematic expertise was effectively translated into high-quality, integrated Cooperation Frameworks across the region.

B. Engagement in regional and global processes

60. The RCP played an active role in elevating regional priorities and processes to the global level, while also helping translate global priorities into actionable regional approaches.

61. A few examples include, as previously noted, the IBC for Large Movement of People, Displacement and Resilience and the R-NW, which proactively supported the preparation of the 2026 IMRF including guidance to UNCTs to ensure meaningful engagement of stakeholders. Moreover, the IBC-GE convened an informal briefing for UN country team Gender Theme Groups on leveraging intergovernmental processes including CSW69, Beijing +30 and CSW Revitalisation. As well as the IBC for Sustainable Food System led the [UNFSS+4 Regional Preparatory Meeting: Europe and Central Asia \(April 2025\)](#), with National Convenors from Governments across the ECA region.

62. The RCP entities, including the IBCs and interagency groups, played a crucial role as co-organizers of various sessions at the 2025 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. These included a round table on [SDG8 Just Digital and Green Transitions](#) to Leave No-One Behind and two side events on [Bridging the Digital Gender Divide for Women's Economic Empowerment](#) and [WSIS+20 Review for UN Teams](#). Moreover, the IBC for Sustainable Food System organised a [Side event “Re-imagining the Future of Women in Food Systems: Harnessing Science, Technology, and Partnership to Advance the SDGs”](#) in collaboration with FAO, UNECE and the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub. The forum contributed to shaping the regional input for the 2025 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

III. Conclusion

63. In 2025, the RCP for Europe and Central Asia significantly strengthened its ability to turn regional expertise into practical, timely support for Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams, while also ensuring that regional perspectives were effectively reflected in global processes. The growing maturity, adaptability, and system-wide coherence of the Issue-Based Coalitions, the Peer Support Group, and other inter-agency mechanisms enabled more integrated, responsive, and country-driven support across the region. This allowed the platform to provide targeted assistance in a more coherent and agile manner, despite limited resources and the continued strain of protracted crises. At the same time, capturing outcome-level results remains a challenge, underscoring the need for stronger feedback loops from the country level to better assess the effectiveness and impact of regional support. Adjusting to demands and needs for integrated approaches, a new regional mechanism for demographic resilience (that will also integrate youth perspectives) will be activated in 2026, in tandem with the work underway at the global level.

64. Looking ahead to 2026, both the regional context and the wider UN development system are being shaped by major global developments. In particular, the UN80 initiative, with its focus on strengthening the effectiveness, coherence and relevance of the UN system, is expected to influence regional work, including through renewed attention to prevention, financing for sustainable development, and progress on the SDGs. The UN80 Regional Reset will require stronger cross-pillar collaboration, enhanced capacities for risk analysis and foresight, and deeper integration of human rights and governance dimensions into both regional and country-level support. At the same time, emerging global commitments on digital governance, climate ambition, social protection floors, and the future of development cooperation will further shape the policy environment in which UN Teams operate.

65. In the ECA region, these global dynamics coincide with the launch of 12 new Cooperation Frameworks that have entered into effect in 2026, creating a strategic opportunity to further consolidate integrated approaches across climate, food systems, digital transformation, social protection, and gender equality. To make the most of this opportunity, strengthened guidance, joint regional analytical work, and continued alignment between the regional mechanisms and UN Teams demand will be essential to ensure that regional support remains both anticipatory and adaptable. This also calls for continued efforts to improve the clarity, prioritization and strategic focus of requests from the country level, enabling more targeted and effective responses from regional mechanisms.

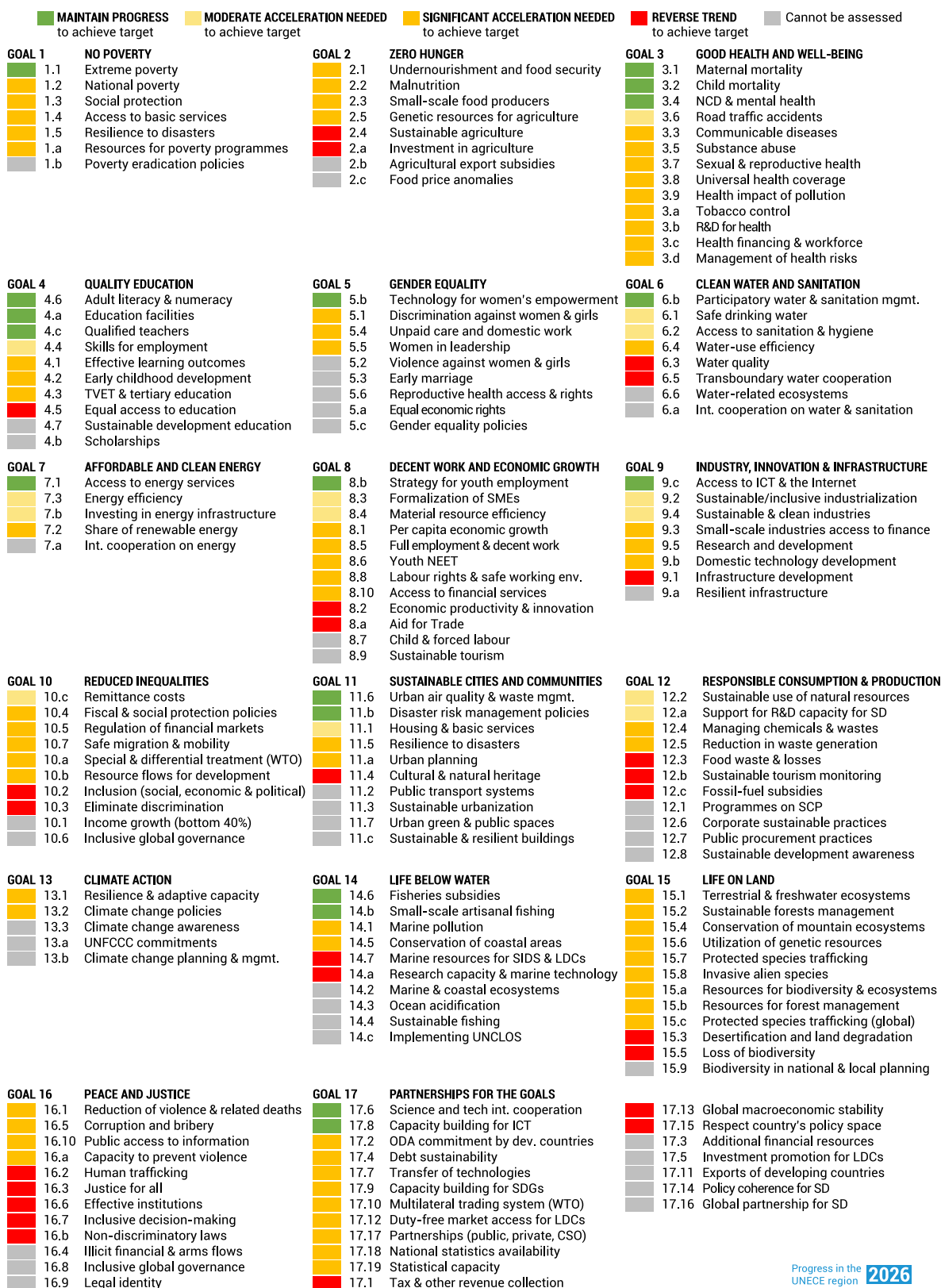
66. The region's complex challenges, from ongoing conflict and displacement to climate vulnerability and rising inequalities, will continue to require coordinated, system-wide responses. At the same time, the region's strengths, including expanding digital capacities, dynamic policy ecosystems, and strong engagement by youth and civil society, offer important opportunities to accelerate progress. Building on the lessons of 2025, the regional architecture will continue to provide more coherent, evidence-based, and forward-looking support, helping position the region to respond to evolving global priorities and advance the 2030 Agenda in a rapidly changing multilateral environment, in line with the ambition of UN80 and UN 2.0.

ANNEX

Figure 1: Snapshot of SDG Progress in the UNECE Region

Progress in the UNECE region **2026**

Which SDG targets are on track for 2030?



Source: UNECE, Sustainable Development in the UNECE Region: Trends and Actions in 2026, Geneva, 2026

Figure 2: Snapshot of SDG Progress in the 17 programme countries

