

1st Green Forum Commitment Paper Kosovo Green Action

October 2024

With the signing of the Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda in November 2020, Kosovo pledged to achieve decarbonization by 2050. This commitment mirrors the aspirations of the European Green Deal and is structured around five key pillars: (i) Climate action, encompassing decarbonization, energy, and mobility; (ii) Circular economy, addressing waste management, recycling, sustainable production, and resource efficiency; (iii) Biodiversity conservation; (iv) Combating air, water, and soil pollution; and (v) Promoting sustainable food systems and rural development. ¹

¹ Regional Cooperation Council, Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, <https://www.rcc.int/docs/546/sofia-declaration-on-the-green-agenda-for-the-western-balkans-rn>

Background

Moreover, the Government of Kosovo has committed to monitoring environmental compliance, facilitating public participation, ensuring access to information and justice in environmental matters, and enhancing environmental reporting mechanisms.² Although progress has been made in building relevant governance and policymaking systems, Kosovo still faces challenges in effectively implementing the Green Agenda, such as insufficient coordination among governmental bodies, limited data-driven decision-making capabilities, and a lack of capacity to draft and implement policies aligned with the Agenda. Simultaneously, Kosovos citizens demand increased transparency, efficiency, and accountability from their government.³

To address these challenges, the establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) is crucial. These platforms provide structured environments for governmental institutions, private enterprises, and civil society to collaborate, address concerns, co-create solutions, and enhance transparency and accountability from government institutions.⁴

2 World Bank, Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary https://ewdata.rightsindevelopment.org/files/documents/84/WB-P179084_uRhepxD.pdf

3 USAID Kosovo, Accountability, <https://www.usaid.gov/kosovo/accountability#:~:text=Kosovo's%20citizens%20demand%20greater%20transparency,Government%20accountable%20to%20such%20demands>.

4 Siangulube, F.S. The Role of Multistakeholder Platforms in Environmental Governance: Analyzing Stakeholder Perceptions in Kalomo District, Zambia, Using Q-Method. Environmental Management <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s-00267-01806-023z>

Introduction and Purpose

In response to the above-mentioned challenges, Balkan Green Foundation in partnership with Open Data Kosovo and Levizja Fol are implementing the Kosovo Green Action project (KGAP), through the support of Global Partnership for Social Accountability, a multi-donor trust fund administered by the World Bank that facilitates collaboration of civil society organizations with governments, and engagement of citizens in order to solve development problems, strengthen accountability and improve sector governance. KGAP is committed to advancing public access to information through multi stakeholder collaboration, fostering transparency, enhancing accountability, and implementing services aligned with the Green Agenda. The project has three components: including (1) the development and support of collaborative social accountability; (2) stakeholder engagement and capacity building; and (3) project management, monitoring, learning, and knowledge dissemination.

Among the project's key initiatives is the organization of three annual 'Green Forums', which serve as a functional platform for gathering stakeholder feedback and recommendations on the implementation of the Green Agenda. This annual initiative aims to facilitate meaningful collaborative engagements that could lead to more effective policy reforms and improved service delivery. The iterative process ensures an ongoing dialogue, revisiting commitments made by governmental representatives from previous years and providing a platform for collaborative recommendations on moving forward.

This Commitment Paper is an integral part of the KGAP following the recent Green Forum event held on November 30, 2023 at Menza Ramiz Sadiku, Prishtina. The first Green Forum addressed the theme “Commitment and Progress on the Green Agenda in Kosovo,” featuring representatives from key entities, including the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Environment Spatial Planning, and Infrastructure, Office of the Prime Minister, and GIZ. This paper captures the commitments made by governmental institutions during the Green Forum, reinforcing the project’s dedication to transparency, accountability, and stakeholder engagement.

**Commitments
made by
Governmental
Institutions**

The Office of the Prime Minister plays a central coordinating role in the Government of Kosovo's efforts to integrate into the European Union, including the negotiation and implementation of the Green Agenda. This agenda involves various obligations and initiatives, with specific responsibilities assigned to relevant line ministries. The Ministry of Economy formulates policies in energy, mining, ICT, and digital economy, aligning with EU standards. The Department of Energy drafts and monitors energy policies and legislation, promotes investments for a secure, affordable, and sustainable energy supply, oversees sector performance and consumer protection, supports municipal planning, and coordinates regional cooperation. The Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning, and Infrastructure formulates policies regarding environmental protection, spatial planning, and developing eco-friendly infrastructure. It also oversees the agencies within the institution that deal with environmental protection.

This paper outlines the commitments made by the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning, and Infrastructure, reflecting their crucial role in advancing Green Agenda implementation.

The Ministry of Economy commits to:

- **Approve and commence the implementation of the Energy Strategy 2022-2031, in line with the European Green Deal and the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, ensuring consistency with the draft National Energy and Climate Plan (approved; implementation is ongoing).**
- **Establish a legal framework to address challenges for clean energy landscape, with the Law on Renewable Energy Sources (RES) to be approved in Q2/2024 (completed).**
- **Conduct transparent and competitive auctions for RES investments, including the completion of the 100 MW solar auction and announcing the winner in Q1/2024 (completed); Identify locations and prepare documentation for additional auctions for wind and solar energy projects (in progress).**
- **Collaborate on the energy storage battery project, funded by Millenium Challenge Account Kosovo(MCA) (continuous).**
- **Initiate a 150 MW wind energy project using funds from the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) to help procure these 150 MW of wind capacity. The Ministry of Economy (ME) will use RSF funds to co-invest in the awarded wind projects under a Public-Private Partnership scheme (PPP), aiming to reduce the risk for private investors. Successful Projects will be awarded a 15-year Power Purchase Agreement.**

→ **Adopt energy efficiency incentives for the private sector and households, focusing on social**

Aspects and low-income households (state incentives) and the utilization of existing EU programs in Kosovo (Q4/2024).

→ **Finalize the third phase of the comprehensive study on alternative sustainable energy sources in line with sustainable green transition in Europe, (Q1/2024).**

Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure commits to:

→ **Finalize and adopt Law on Nature Protection (Q4/2024).**

→ **Adopt the draft Law on Kosovo Waters (Q4/2024).**

→ **Adopt the Action Plan for Air Quality (Q4/2024).**

→ **Design the air pollution control measures for Pristina and the other most relevant agglomerations and sensitive zones (Q4/2024).**

→ **Develop and commence implementation of a comprehensive institutional capacity development plan for the implementation and enforcement of the waste management legislation (Q4/2024).**

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- **Amend the national waste management strategy to include recycling targets, measures for hazardous waste management, inter-municipal cooperation (Q4/2024).**
 - **Transpose into Kosovo legislation the EU waste stream directives (Q4/2024).**
 - **Implement public awareness campaigns (Q4/2023 and continuous).**
 - **Implement the climate change strategy and the action plan on climate change.**
 - **Prepare an inventory of Greenhouse Gas emissions covering up to 2021 (Q2/2023).**

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Conclusion

In conclusion, through commitments such as establishing legal frameworks, conducting auctions for renewable energy investments, and implementing sustainable energy projects, Kosovo demonstrates its dedication to environmental sustainability. However, success in achieving the green agenda requires collective responsibility from all stakeholders. By fostering stakeholder engagement and monitoring sentiments, we can identify and prioritize environmental and social issues, ensuring that solutions are developed to meet their needs effectively. With collaborative efforts and proactive measures, Kosovo can pave the way towards a greener and more sustainable future for all.

The next Green Forum will address the previous commitments and their implementation.

