

Environmental Aspects of the Economic Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Kyrgyz Republic

Bishkek, 2021

Development Strategies and Programs of the Kyrgyz Republic

- National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018-2040 (October, 2018):
 - National priorities: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, Green Economy Initiatives.
- Development Program of the Kyrgyz Republic “Unity. Confidence. Creation” for 2018-2022 (April, 2018):
 - The first stage of the NDS-2040 implementation;
 - Political events in 2020 and changes in the constitution (reform of the executive branch).
- Program for the Development of a Green Economy in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2019-2023 (November, 2019):
 - Main directions: 1) "Green" energy; 2) "Green" agriculture; 3) "Green" industry; 4) Low carbon and environmentally friendly transport; 5) Sustainable tourism; 6) Management of municipal waste; 7) "Green" cities.

COVID-19 Crisis Led to Sharp Recession in the Country's Economy in 2020

- Real GDP has declined by 8.6%;
- Public debt increased by 15.0% of GDP to 58.3%;
- The exchange rate of the national currency (som) against the US dollar depreciated by 18.7%;
- Inflation rose to 9.7% (from 3.1% in 2019);
- Growth in expenditures and a decrease in revenues led to an increase in the republican budget deficit to 3.3% of GDP (from 0.1% in 2019):
 - attracted more than 360 million US dollars to overcome the consequences of COVID-19 (loans and grants).

Forecast of the Country's Economic Growth for 2021-2022

- Real GDP will return to its pre-crisis level only by 2023;
- Real GDP growth in 2021 will be 3.2%, and in 2022 - 6.2%;
- Public external debt will not exceed 60.0% of GDP in the medium term;
- Inflation is projected at 8.9% in 2021 and 5.9% in 2022;
- The state budget deficit will not exceed 3.0% of GDP in the medium term.

Greening Economic Development Measures Taken

- The Plan of Comprehensive Measures to Improve the Environmental Situation in Bishkek City and Sokuluk and Alamudun Districts of Chui Oblast for 2021-2023 (January, 2021);
- Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic "On measures to Ensure Environmental Safety and Climate Sustainability of the Kyrgyz Republic" (March, 2021):
 - implementation of a unified agreed state policy to ensure environmental safety and climate sustainability;
 - draft Concept of Environmental Safety of the Kyrgyz Republic.
- Anti-Crisis Action Plan of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2021 (July, 2021):
 - Infrastructure development and investment projects (rehabilitation of large hydropower plants, construction of small hydropower plants, water supply).
- First meeting of the Coordinating Council on Climate Change, Environment and Green Economy Development (September, 2021):
 - Approval of the draft document "Nationally Determined Contributions of the Kyrgyz Republic".

Greening Economic Development Measures Taken

- Medium-Term Tariff Policy for Electricity and Heat for 2021-2025 (October, 2021):
 - Increasing coefficients are provided for energy-intensive consumers of commercial structures (mining entities, gold mining companies, foundries, cement plants and others);
 - The allocation of funds for the renovation of equipment, the installation of transformer substations, the construction of power lines and an increase in generating capacity;
 - Reducing subsidies from the budget for energy companies.
- Amendments to Some Legislative Acts in the Field of Renewable Energy Sources (July, 2019):
 - Extension of tariff preferences to new facilities using renewable energy sources.

Post-COVID-19 Development Strategies and Programs of the Kyrgyz Republic

- Draft Medium-Term Development Program of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2021-2026:
 - Special development priorities (ensuring environmental sustainability and climate change issues);
 - Tightening the emission policy and modernization of industrial facilities;
 - Approval and implementation of the Long-term Action Plan for the development of low greenhouse gas emissions until 2050;
 - Creation of a green investment fund and others.
- Program for the Development of a Green Economy in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2019-2023 (November, 2019):
 - Adjustment of the Action Plan for the implementation of the Program, taking into account the changes made by the executive authorities.

President's Message to the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly

- Development and adoption under the auspices of the UN of a special targeted program on mountain forests, their conservation, restoration and afforestation of mountain slopes;
- Prevention of risks of disappearance of glaciers, rivers and biodiversity of mountain ecosystems in Kyrgyzstan;
- Initiation in UNESCO of the resolution "On the preservation of mountain glaciers";
- Offering a debt relief initiative in exchange for vital sustainable development projects in Kyrgyzstan;
- Participation of the President at the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Glasgow.