



United Nations
Climate Change



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan

UNFCCC COP29 Pavilion: “Kyrgyzstan: Sustainable Mountain Development”

Location: Pavilion F8, Blue Zone, Baku city, Azerbaijan



UNECE

The Side event

“Launch of the third Environmental Performance Review of Kyrgyzstan”

Concept

Date: 15 November 2024

Time: 11:00-12:00 AZT

Moderator: **Alessandra Fidanza**, Senior Expert, Italian Ministry for the Environment and Energy Security

Background:

The Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Programme is a flagship initiative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), launched in 1993 to assist member states in evaluating and enhancing their environmental policies and practices. Since its inception, the Programme has produced 62 Environmental Performance Reviews, supporting numerous countries in completing multiple review cycles. The Programme’s influence has expanded beyond the UNECE region, with countries like Mauritania, Mongolia, and Morocco also engaging in EPRs, highlighting its global relevance in fostering sustainable environmental governance.

In 2017, the EPRs began incorporating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the targets set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This integration reflects UNECE's commitment to aligning the EPR Programme with international sustainability and climate action frameworks, offering countries a comprehensive approach to achieving environmental goals that also address climate resilience, adaptation, and mitigation.

For Kyrgyzstan, the EPR journey started in 2000 with the country’s first review, followed by a second in 2009. In 2024, Kyrgyzstan completed its third review, marking a critical step in its environmental strategy. This latest EPR includes 18 chapters covering a wide array of topics essential to the country’s environmental and climate resilience agenda. With 89 targeted recommendations and 257 sub-

recommendations, the review addresses specific environmental and climate challenges faced by Kyrgyzstan, including air quality, water resource management, biodiversity, and climate adaptation measures.

A central theme in the third EPR is the impact of climate change on Kyrgyzstan, a mountainous country highly vulnerable to warming temperatures, melting glaciers, and shifting precipitation patterns. The review underscores the urgent need for Kyrgyzstan to intensify its climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. Recommendations focus on strengthening climate governance frameworks, enhancing greenhouse gas reduction measures, and integrating climate resilience across sectors, especially in agriculture, water management, and energy. Additionally, the third EPR addresses the critical need to conserve Kyrgyzstan's glaciers, which serve as vital water sources but are increasingly at risk due to climate change.

This review also assesses Kyrgyzstan's alignment with 14 SDGs and 61 targets, providing a holistic view of the country's commitment to global climate and sustainability goals. The EPR's recommendations reflect both environmental improvements and strategic shifts necessary to safeguard Kyrgyzstan's ecosystems and build resilience against climate impacts. Over the past 15 years, Kyrgyzstan has made meaningful progress in environmental performance, yet the third EPR emphasizes that accelerating climate action remains key to meeting its sustainable development and environmental goals.

The launch event for Kyrgyzstan's third EPR will open with a welcoming address by the Minister of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic, highlighting the country's commitment to climate action. This will be followed by remarks from the UNECE Executive Secretary, underscoring UNECE's support for Kyrgyzstan's progress and continued dedication to addressing climate and environmental challenges. UNECE will provide an overview of the main achievements and obstacles identified in the third EPR, with a particular focus on climate issues and opportunities for further advancement. Representatives from Kyrgyzstan will then share insights on progress made in implementing recommendations from previous EPRs, particularly in areas of climate adaptation, policy reforms, and institutional improvements.

After these presentations, an interactive Q&A session will be held, providing a platform for stakeholders to discuss Kyrgyzstan's climate and environmental priorities and address the recommendations outlined in the third EPR. This discussion aims to foster collaboration and draw on a broad range of expertise to support Kyrgyzstan's climate resilience and environmental management strategies.

Participants in the event will include a diverse group of stakeholders: the Minister of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic, other relevant ministers, UNECE representatives, members of the United Nations System, and representatives from key government agencies, environmental civil society organizations (CSOs), intergovernmental bodies, and international organizations. This broad participation underscores a shared commitment to addressing climate challenges through coordinated action and partnerships, leveraging both local and international knowledge to advance Kyrgyzstan's sustainable development and climate resilience goals.

Side Event's Objectives:

1. Disseminate the findings of the third environmental performance review of Kyrgyzstan.
2. Highlight progress made since the second EPR in 2009.
3. Engage development actors in supporting the implementation of the recommendations.

Agenda

Moderated by:

Alessandra Fidanza, Senior Expert, Italian Ministry for the Environment and Energy Security

Opening (20 minutes)

Welcome Remarks

- **Mashiev Meder Asanovich**, Minister of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic
- **Tatiana Molcean**, UNECE Executive Secretary (or her representative)

Showcasing Results, Achievements, Looking forward (20 minutes)

- **Antoine Nunes**, UNECE EPR Programme Manager
- **Aizada Barieva**, Head of the Climate Change Policy Department, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic

Questions and answers: 15 min

Closing (5 minutes)

Take-away messages and conclusions:

1. **Significant Contribution of EPR Programme to Environmental Governance:** The Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Programme has proven to be a valuable tool for UNECE member states, helping countries evaluate, improve, and align their environmental policies. Its reach beyond the UNECE region underscores its global impact in fostering sustainable environmental governance.
2. **Climate Change as a Central Focus:** The third EPR emphasizes climate change as a critical issue for Kyrgyzstan, a mountainous nation vulnerable to rising temperatures, melting glaciers, and altered precipitation. The report highlights the urgent need for Kyrgyzstan to strengthen its climate adaptation and mitigation efforts, particularly in agriculture, water management, and energy.
3. **Concrete Steps Toward Climate Resilience:** Recommendations from the third EPR encourage Kyrgyzstan to develop robust climate governance frameworks, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and protect critical resources, such as glaciers, which are increasingly at risk due to climate change.
4. **Alignment with SDG and Global Climate Goals:** Kyrgyzstan's third EPR assesses the country's alignment with 14 SDGs and 61 targets, illustrating a holistic approach to addressing climate and sustainability challenges. The report reflects progress but emphasizes that accelerating climate action remains key to meeting both national and international environmental goals.

5. UNECE's Support and Continued Partnership: UNECE is committed to Kyrgyzstan's environmental progress . UNECE's ongoing support will be essential as Kyrgyzstan implements the recommendations in the third EPR and strengthens its climate and environmental policies.

Additional Information: The publication can be found at: <https://unece.org/environment-policy/publications/3rd-environmental-performance-review-kyrgyzstan>

Administrative information:

Person responsible for organizing the Side-event:

- Aizada Barieva, Head of the Climate Change Policy Department, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic, Tel.: (+996) 550 15 99 22; barieva@mnr.gov.kg, Aizada.barieva@gmail.com
- Antoine Nunes, UNECE EPR Programme Manager, antoine.nunes@un.org, +41 792775243