

1. Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to examine the application of Agenda 2030 in Peru. While describing the evolution of the political, economic and social context in the country, it outlines how SDG-related action is likely to be integrated. At the same time, the report pays special attention to the role and evolution of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Local Authorities (LAs). In that sense it provides extensive food for thought in regards to the positive and negative factors that characterize the creation of an enabling environment for both CSOs and LAs in Peru.

Although the Peruvian Government signed Agenda 2030 last year, the current electoral process has delayed the debate about how to integrate and implement this long-term agenda in the country. Peru has a number of characteristics that must be taken into consideration in the reflection about the SDGs:

1. It is one of the world's most vulnerable countries to climate change¹. In addition, the recurrent effects of El Niño (ENSO by its English acronym), together with the high probability of geological hazards (earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions), exacerbate its vulnerability.
2. Although MDG achievements have been remarkable, inequality remains a key challenge, particularly as evidenced by the persistence of precarious living conditions in rural areas and by the low capacity of marginalized groups to overcome poverty and improve their economic and social condition.
3. The country has recently been declared an upper middle-income country. As a result, it is expected to invest its own financial resources (public and private) to achieve the SDGs. Therefore, future implementation of the SDGs' depends on the Peruvian Government's political will and financial capacity.
4. Despite a recent history of authoritarian governments, the process of democratization has advanced and fostered active spaces for participation (*concertación*)², promoting dialogue between economic, social and governmental actors.

5. Peru is still highly centralized, which poses a challenge for the process of localizing the SDGs. No appropriation of the SDGs by local governments, local authorities, academia or even NGO experts has been observed in cities inside the country (i.e. outside Lima). There is still a considerable lack of awareness about Agenda 2030.
6. Finally, Peru is currently undergoing an economic recession that may postpone the debate about the importance of Agenda 2030 for the country.

At this point it remains to be seen how the new government (starting in August 2016) will define the implementation of Agenda 2030. However, it is clear that achievement of the SDGs faces a number of specific challenges in Peru:

1. Need to reconcile the match between the SDGs and existing national plans such as the Bicentennial National Plan, the Poverty Reduction Plans (PRSP, national to local) and the sector plans (PESEMs³);
2. Low level of SDG appropriation by multiple actors (public and private), and the need to articulate a comprehensive plan of action (with strong communication tools) for the implementation of Agenda 2030 to ensure that nobody is left behind;
3. Lack of objectives, results and budget allocations in territories and/or medium to small cities with regards to the "localization" of SDG targets;
4. Lack of a strategy for capacity building on how to link the SDGs and the country's priorities with the current institutional capacity at the national, regional and local levels;
5. Lack of a monitoring system, with concrete indicators that use strong participatory follow-up tools (such as a system of National and Local Observatories with CSO participation) to oversee the implementation of the SDGs at the national and local levels;
7. No public campaign to mobilize resources from different stakeholders (CSOs, the private sector, academia, local groups) to support the SDGs;

1 Adger, W N, Nick Brooks, Graham Bentham, Maureen Agnew and Siri Eriksen (2004), "New indicators of vulnerability and adaptive capacity", Tyndall Project IT1.11, Technical Report 7, Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, UK, 128 pages

2 'Concertación' has no proper translation in English. It refers to the process of reaching agreements for joint action through dialogue and deliberation.

3 <http://www.ceplan.gob.pe/directiva-planeamiento/proceso-del-planeamiento-estrategico>

In order to advance the implementation of the SDGs and address the aforementioned challenges, the following overall recommendations (described more in detail in section 6) are made:

1. Use existing mechanisms such as National Policies, the Governability Agreements, the Bicentennial Plan, the National Environmental Plan, the National Annual Budget with SDGs and INEI⁴ to define a Peruvian SDG baseline with proper indicators that will establish a good departure point.
2. Guarantee the SDGs' inclusion in local and municipal policies and planning, making use of existing plans such as the Local Concerted Development Plans⁵ and institutions such as the National Association of Municipalities of Peru (AMPE),⁶ which could monitor the allocation of economic resources to develop capacity building programs for local authorities.
3. Integrate all the diverse and dispersed existing CSO networks, associations and spaces under common frameworks of collective action to overcome Peru's sectorialism and build comprehensive multi-actor approaches/mechanisms/coalitions and policies based on Peru's long-standing participatory and concertative experience and tradition.
4. Establish mechanisms for the LAs' and CSOs' capacity building for their participation in monitoring and budgeting activities related to SDG implementation.
5. Build a SDG Local Observatory System with support at the highest level of National Government to coordinate, align, integrate and monitor decentralized participatory instruments, tools and budget allocation.
6. At national level, the PCM⁷ (Presidency of Ministries Council) can lead this systemic process in collaboration with other governmental institutions, such as the National Strategic Planning Center (CEPLAN)⁸ as the planning organism of the country, the Ministry of Economy⁹ for proper budget allocation, the Concertation Tables for the fight against poverty, the Environmental Ministry, and the National Superintendence of Higher Education and University (SUNEDU).

4 National Institute of Statistics of Peru, www.inei.gob.pe

5 Ruled by CEPLAN

6 www.ampe.gob.pe

7 www.pcm.gob.pe

8 Ideally, the next government may guarantee the articulation of planning and project responsibilities and especially autonomy to CEPLAN and take some responsibilities from the Ministry of Economy and Finance (abbreviated as MEF in Spanish) which currently has extreme power for budget allocation, deciding which sectors or localities will be developed and how much money they will get. www.ceplan.gob.pe

9 www.mef.gob.pe