

Report on the Roundtable "Progress in Achieving SDG 1 – No Poverty" at the Uzbekistan State World Languages University (UzSWLU)

Date: November 15, 2022

Location: Conference Hall, UzSWLU

Participants: Representatives from academia, government officials, NGOs, students, and faculty members.

On November 15, 2022, the Uzbekistan State World Languages University (UzSWLU) organized a roundtable titled "Progress in Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1) – No Poverty." The event brought together a diverse group of participants to discuss achievements and strategies aimed at reducing poverty in Uzbekistan. As the university's rector, Ulugbek Azizov, stated: *"Education is a key tool in the fight against poverty, and our university actively supports and develops initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life for our communities."*

Objectives of the Event

The purpose of this roundtable was to create a platform for sharing experiences and generating recommendations to reduce poverty in Uzbekistan. Key goals included:

- Assessing the current state and progress in achieving SDG 1 in Uzbekistan.
- Exchanging best practices in poverty reduction.
- Developing recommendations and new initiatives to support vulnerable groups.

Key Themes and Topics

The event covered several crucial topics related to poverty reduction from different perspectives:

- 1. The Role of Education in Reducing Poverty**
 - Participants emphasized the importance of accessible education for all as a primary factor in poverty reduction. The Deputy Rector for Academic Affairs noted: *"Investing in education today is a direct contribution to our country's sustainable future. UzSWLU is committed to making education accessible to everyone, regardless of their social or economic status."*
- 2. Social Support and Protection Systems**
 - Representatives from the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection presented current social support programs and emphasized that achieving SDG 1 requires access to social resources and support for vulnerable groups. *"We need to create a system where every citizen of Uzbekistan feels protected and has the opportunity to improve their wellbeing,"* stated a ministry representative.
- 3. The Role of NGOs and International Cooperation**
 - The importance of collaboration with NGOs and international partners in achieving sustainable development goals was highlighted. An NGO representative remarked: *"Only through joint efforts can we create an environment where everyone has the opportunity to overcome hardships and reach prosperity."*
- 4. Climate Resilience and Poverty**
 - Participants discussed the impact of climate change on poverty levels and the need for sustainable solutions. A representative from the Environmental Committee stressed: *"Climate change affects the most vulnerable populations, and we must take measures to adapt and protect these groups."*

Outcomes and Recommendations

Based on the discussions, the following recommendations were developed:

- **Expand educational programs** for low-income groups, focusing on skill development and employment opportunities.
- **Strengthen social support** by developing a more accessible and flexible social protection system, especially for rural and remote areas.
- **Collaborate with NGOs and international partners** to implement programs aimed at improving living conditions.
- **Enhance climate resilience** to minimize its impact on vulnerable populations.

“Our society must stand united in its efforts to combat poverty. Only by working together at all levels can we bring about change and create a society where everyone has the opportunity for a dignified life,” concluded UzSWLU Rector Ulugbek Azizov.

Conclusion

The roundtable concluded with an agreement to hold similar meetings to monitor progress in achieving SDG 1 and to develop new joint programs. UzSWLU reaffirms its commitment to addressing poverty issues and will continue to work with partners to improve wellbeing in Uzbekistan.