



# Health and Climate Change Georgia's challenges and development priorities

*Workshop on climate change mitigation and health co-benefits*

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# Vulnerability of Georgia's Health Sector to Climate Change

- Vulnerability of the healthcare sector to climate change for three selected regions (Ajara, Upper Svaneti, Kakheti) was assessed under the Third National Communication 2012-2015.
- Climate-related diseases defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) were mainly discussed: Infectious and parasitic diseases, diarrheal and, in general, water, food and insect/animal transmitted infections, cardiovascular diseases, mental disorders and injuries, abnormal conditions caused by solar radiation and heat waves.

# Vulnerability of Georgia's Health Sector to Climate Change

- **In accordance with the analysis conducted in the framework of the Third National Communication, climate-related diseases in Georgia are not evenly distributed among regions and depend on the type of manifestation of climate change.**
- Among climate-related diseases, diarrheal diseases turned out to be the most widely spread in Ajara region, incidence of which exceeded average indicator of Georgia 5 times in 2009-2010 in adults as well as in children.
- Out of climate-related diseases, the most actual in Upper Svaneti was trauma, and out of chronicle pathologies– cardio-vascular and respiratory system diseases.

# Vulnerability of Georgia's Health Sector to Climate Change

- Significant increase of cardio-vascular diseases was also recorded in Kakheti region, where, according to the data of 2010-2011, lethality caused by these pathologies in Kakheti was twice as much as in Tbilisi.
- For all the three examined regions it was revealed that the increase of air temperature, activation of heat waves and decrease of precipitation contribute to the persistence of the trend of increase of total number of incidences of cardio-vascular diseases.
- This effect was particularly clearly revealed on the example of Tbilisi for the data 2003-2013, which, according to the indicators of spreading of cardio-vascular diseases, twice exceeds the parameters of Kakheti and Imereti.

# Impact of Climate Change on the Healthcare Sector

- The vulnerability parameter values for 3 municipalities were assessed by using the multi-criteria analysis in conditions of the current and projected climate changes.
- The results revealed that until 2050 the healthcare sector is the most vulnerable to current and projected climate changes, which creates the need to strengthen appropriate adaptation measures.
- By taking into account the alarming increase in diarrheal, CVD, Respiratory system diseases and trauma, appropriate recommendations were developed and prepared for healthcare sector. In addition, adaptation project proposal was also developed.

# Georgia's National Environmental Health Action Plan (NEHAP)

## **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND INTERVENTIONS**

- 1. Ensure public health through improvement of access to safe and sustainable water supply and sanitation. Ensure access of each child to safe water supply and sanitation by 2022.**
- 2. Improved children accessibility to healthy and safe environments and settings of daily life, promoting their increased physical activity by 2022**
- 3. The impact of ambient and indoor air pollution on human health assessed and implemented measures to reduce the harmful effects**
- 4. Prevention of morbidity caused by exposure to chemical substances.**
- 5. Integration of health issues in climate change adaptation and mitigation policies.**

# Georgia's National Environmental Health Action Plan (NEHAP)

## ➤ **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5: INTEGRATION OF HEALTH ISSUES IN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION POLICIES.**

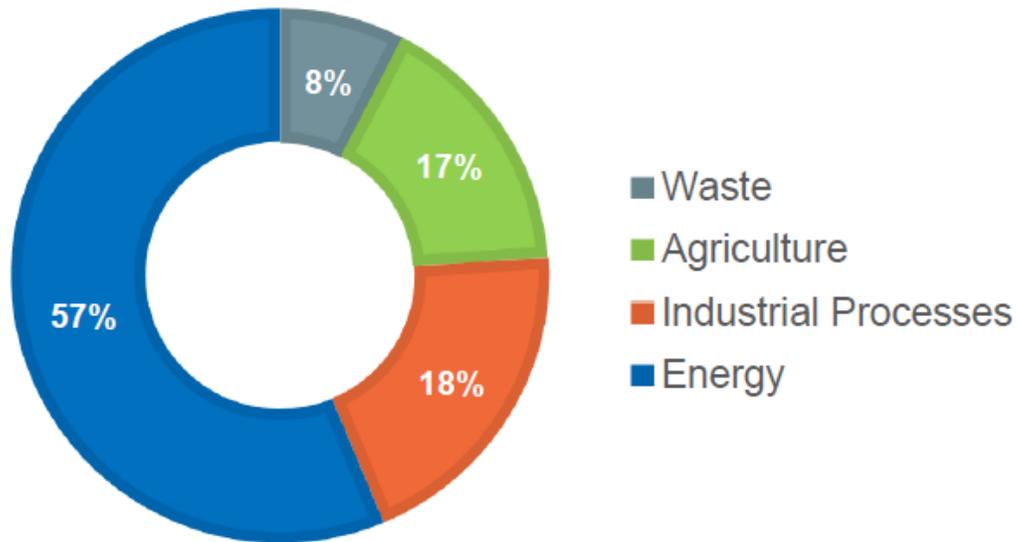
- **MTO 5.1 Evaluate vulnerability to climate change, health impacts and adaptation (health care aspects) including assessment of existing and anticipated risks related to health impacts of climate change.**
- **MTO 5.2 Develop National Health Care Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, among them, for medical facilities;**
- **MTO 5.3 Harmonize the legislation with regard to the requirements of the UNFCCC Convention and assessment of health outcomes.**
- **MTO 5.4 Health care facilities reduce the share of greenhouse gas emissions X% in national emissions by 2020 (from 2018), including introduction of renewable energy use in several hospitals within the framework of the pilot project.**

# Georgia's National Environmental Health Action Plan (NEHAP)

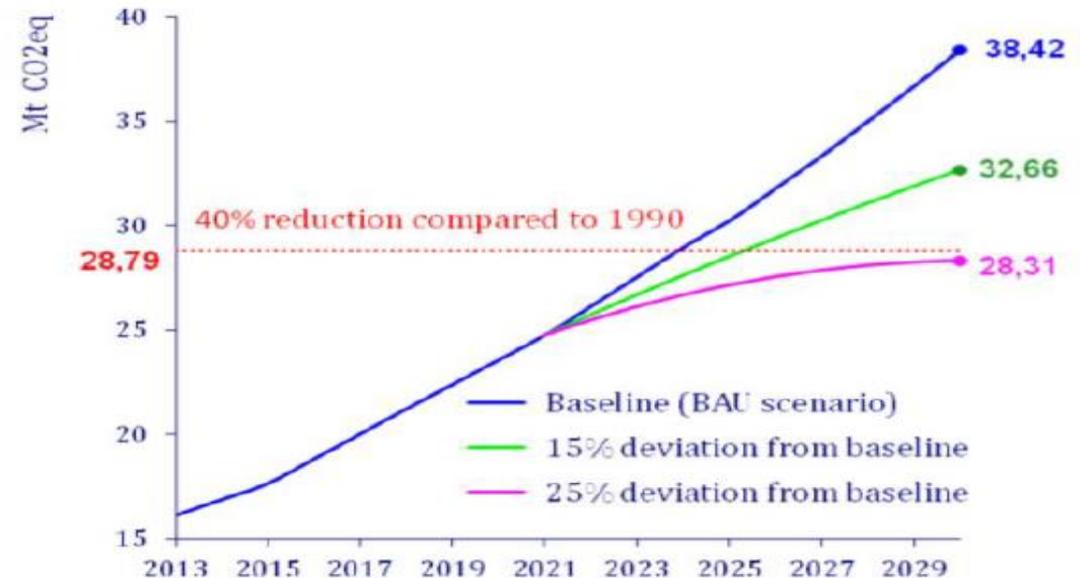
## Strategic objective 5 KPIs

- **1. The final report, which analyzes the current and expected risks of vulnerability to climate change, is approved and published;**
- **2. The Public Health Policy and Programs required to reduce the climate change attributable health risks are elaborated;**
- **3. National Reports on Vulnerability, Impact and Adaptation to Climate Change (Midterm and Final) are approved;**
- **4. National Strategy and Action Plan for Health Care Adaptation to Climate Change are published;**
- **5. Report on analysis of deaths resulting from high temperature impacts is published;**
- **6. Report on Detailed Analysis of Health System Energy Efficiency is developed and published;**
- **7. Manuals on energy efficiency and climate change are elaborated and published, Health Care personnel are trained.**

Climate action is necessary in all sectors to be able to meet the targets of Georgia's NDC, and the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement to limit global temperature increase to "well below 2°C"



Source: Georgia's First Biennial Update Report on Climate Change (2016)



Source: Georgia's 1st Nationally Determined Contribution (2015)

# Why does Georgia need a Climate Action Plan (CAP)?

The process can help deal with existing challenges and embrace opportunities.

## Challenges

Lack of **financial resources** to implement additional measures.

Difficulty to **coordinate** between institutions on **responsibilities** for additional measures.



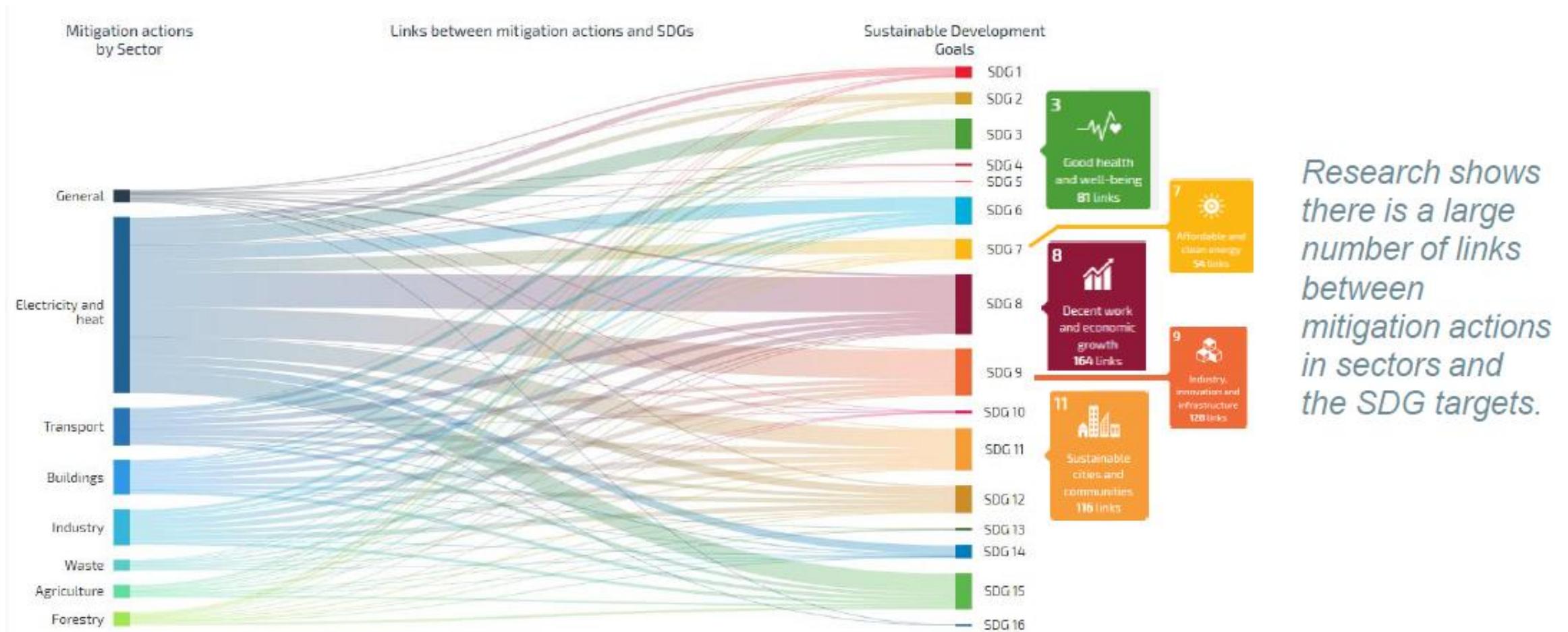
The CAP will increase the visibility on the international stage, potentially **attracting climate finance**.

The process for development of the CAP involves **dialogue between stakeholders** and the clear designation of **roles and responsibilities**.

## Opportunities

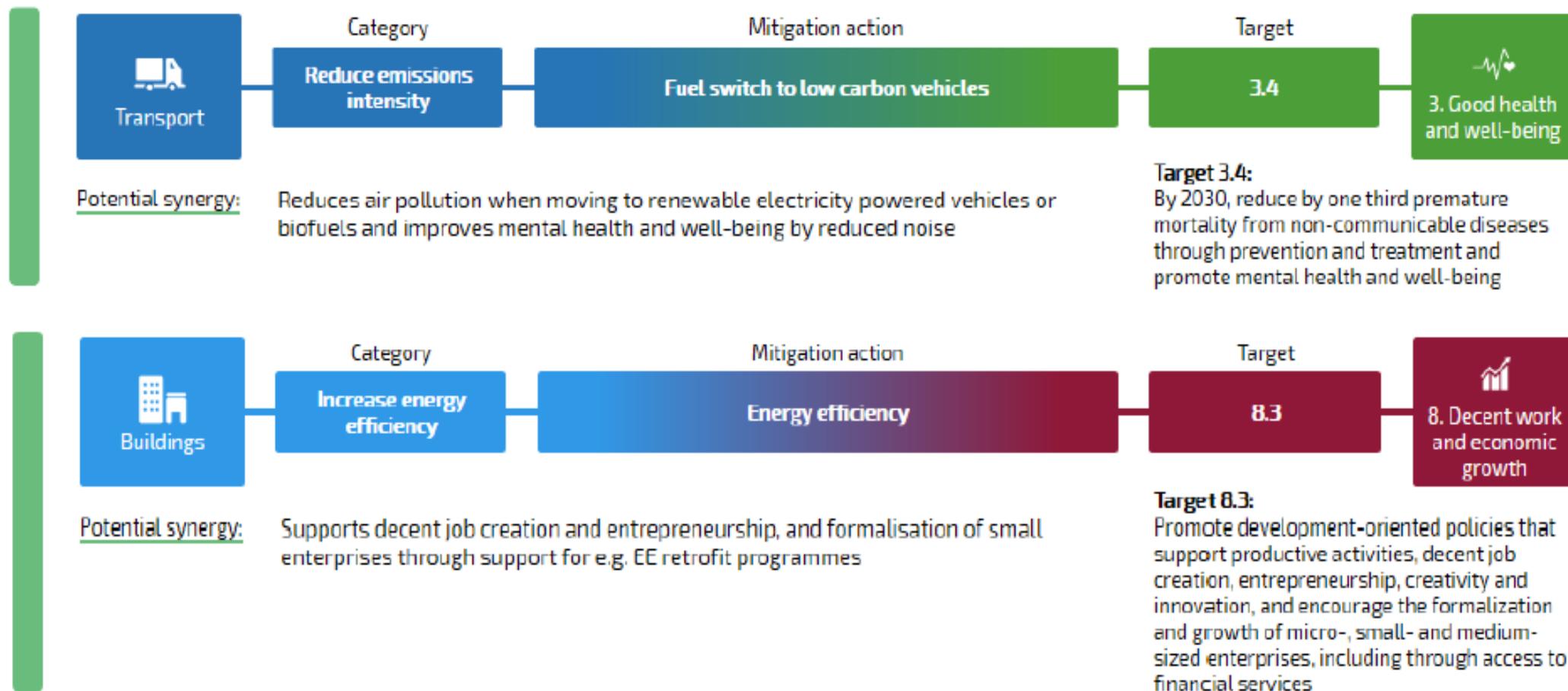
# Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

*In 2017, Georgia developed specific targets to achieve the goals of the Agenda 2030, in line with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.*



# Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

## ❖ Specific examples of SDG links include:

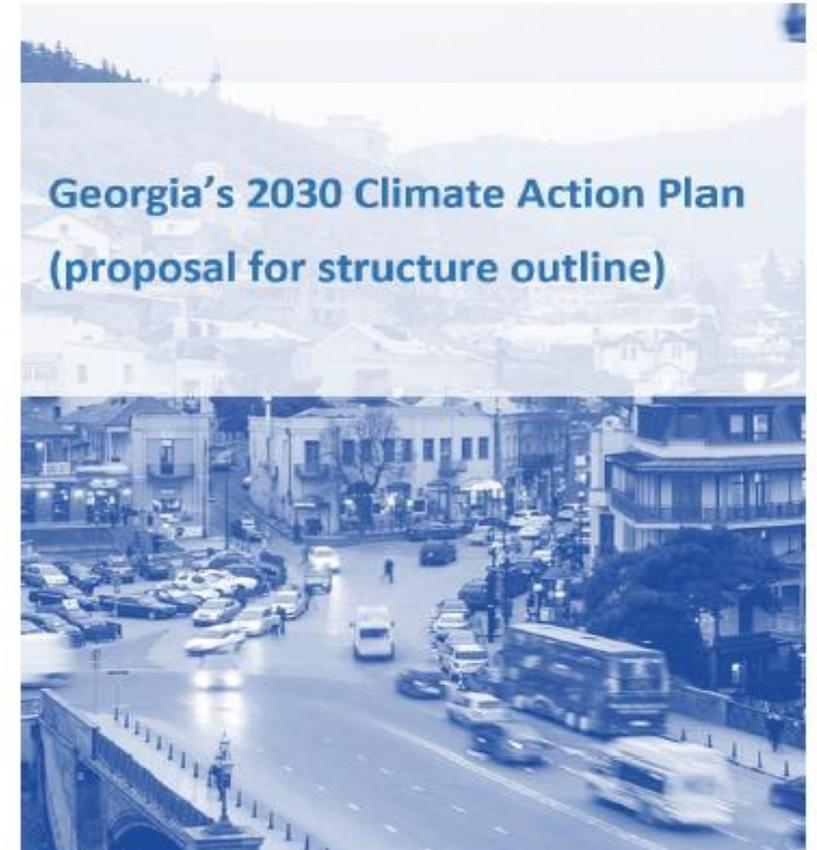


# Georgia's Climate Action Plan

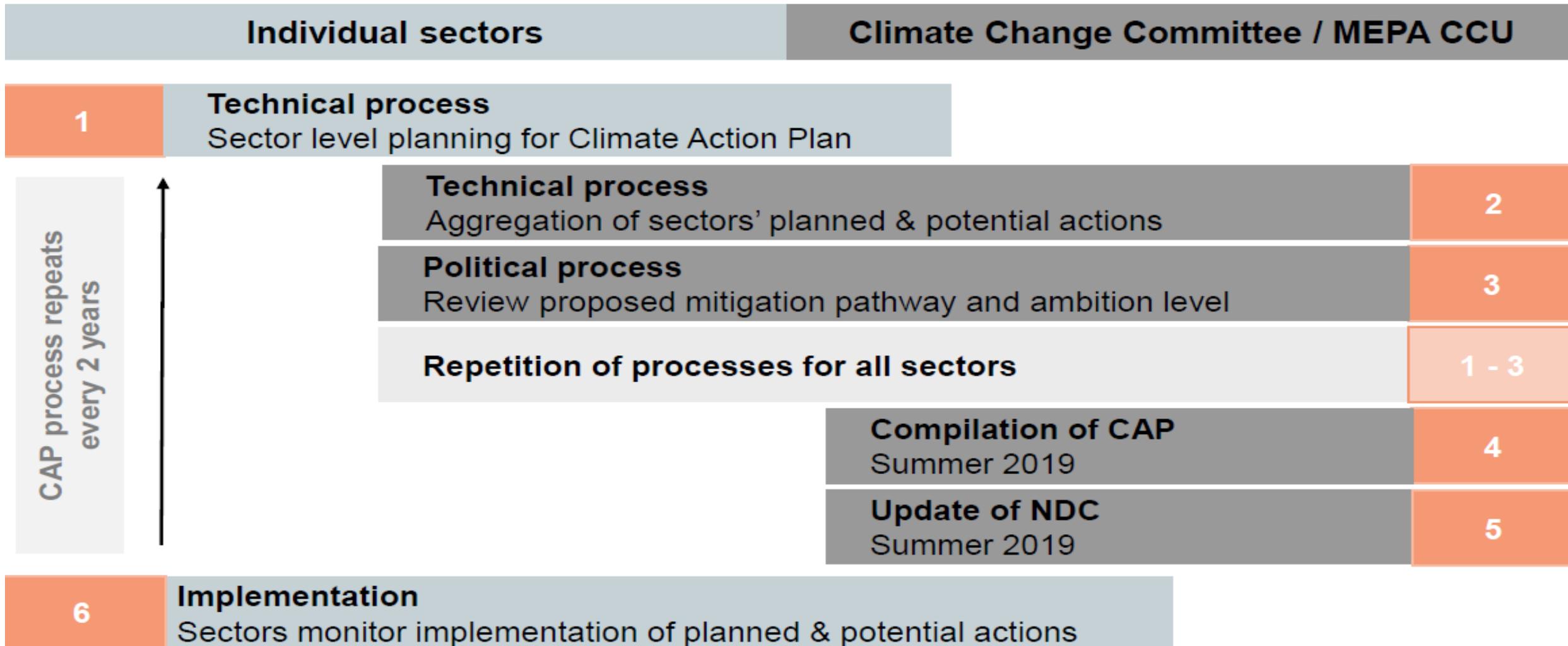
## What could the CAP look like?

A proposal for the CAP content structure includes:

- I. Introduction to CAP  
(e.g. objectives, context, national targets on climate action)
- II. Structure for planning and implementing the CAP  
(e.g. Institutional and legal framework, cycles for climate change planning, national capacities)
- III. Low emissions development by sector  
(e.g. sector chapters detailing emissions' trends and developments, existing policies and targets, strategy for NDC implementation, action plan under CAP)
- IV. Adaptation chapter
- V. Monitoring implementation of the CAP

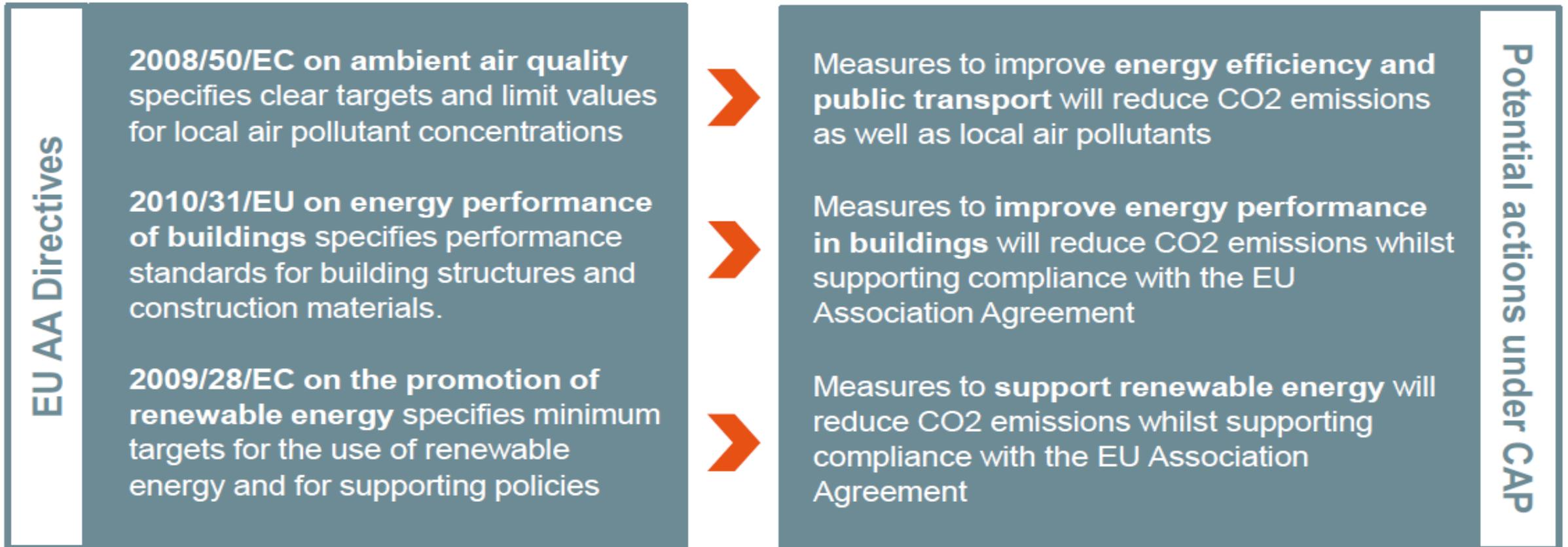


# How could the process for developing the CAP look like?



# CAP in line with Georgia's other development priorities

In 2016, the EU Association Agreement entered into force, requiring Georgia to implement a range of measures across sectors in the coming years.



**Thank you for your attention!**