

Brussels, 16 July 2026
(OR. en)

12037/26
ADD 3

POLCOM 279
SPG 5

COVER NOTE

From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director
date of receipt:	16 July 2026
To:	Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

No. Cion doc.:	SWD(2026) 186 final
Subject:	JOINT STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT The EU Special Incentive Arrangement for Sustainable Development and Good Governance (GSP+) assessment of the Kyrgyz Republic covering the period 2023-2025 Accompanying the document Joint Report to the European Parliament and the Council on the Generalised Scheme of Preferences covering the period 2023-2025

Delegations will find attached document SWD(2026) 186 final.

Encl.: SWD(2026) 186 final



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

HIGH REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNION FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
SECURITY POLICY

Brussels, 16.7.2026
SWD(2026) 186 final

JOINT STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

The EU Special Incentive Arrangement for Sustainable Development and Good Governance (GSP+) assessment of the Kyrgyz Republic covering the period 2023-2025

Accompanying the document

**Joint Report to the European Parliament and the Council
on the Generalised Scheme of Preferences covering the period 2023-2025**

{JOIN(2026) 16 final} - {SWD(2026) 184 final} - {SWD(2026) 185 final} -
{SWD(2026) 187 final} - {SWD(2026) 188 final} - {SWD(2026) 189 final} -
{SWD(2026) 190 final} - {SWD(2026) 191 final} - {SWD(2026) 192 final}

1. Executive Summary

Kyrgyzstan has benefitted from the EU's Special Incentive Arrangement for Sustainable Development and Good Governance of the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP+) since 2016. Thanks to GSP+, nearly all imports into the EU from Kyrgyzstan in 2024 were granted GSP+ or MFN duty free treatment. Still, Kyrgyzstan can make better use of the potential of the GSP+ scheme, both in terms of full use of existing preferences and of diversification. Once in application, the EU-Kyrgyzstan Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA), signed in June 2024, will complement GSP+'s market access and sustainability commitments.

During the 2023-2025 monitoring period¹, which included an EU GSP+ monitoring mission in November 2024, Kyrgyzstan has been facing compliance issues with its GSP+ obligations. The country demonstrated progress in advancing social rights and protection, women's rights, drug control and anti-corruption efforts, while confronting enduring challenges in the implementation of labour rights and human rights protection. Rapidly shrinking civil society and media space, increasing pressure via restrictive legislation and practice, and enduring enforcement gaps, particularly in judiciary independence, fair trials, and in torture prevention and prosecution, are hampering Kyrgyzstan's full alignment with its GSP+ commitments.

The new Anti-corruption Strategy and the increased liability for corruption offences are positive developments. In the realm of labour rights, the lifting of the moratorium on unannounced labour inspections and work on promoting women's rights and equality represent steps forward. Kyrgyzstan also strengthened legislation on domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence and government action plans on child rights. Kyrgyzstan has made advances in implementing drug control commitments, while progress in environmental and climate legislation has been mixed.

However, serious concerns continue to overshadow these positive developments. Recent United Nations (UN) treaty body reviews and the 2025 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) indicate deterioration, driven by new, restrictive legislation not aligned with ratified conventions. Prosecutions of independent journalists, bloggers, and civil society representatives in all areas of public activity are increasing. Independent oversight remains hampered by shrinking civic space, growing pressure on independent media and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and the controversial dissolution of the National Centre for the Prevention of Torture (NCPT) in 2025. In the realm of labour rights, the effective realisation of freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, work on ensuring non-discrimination, and ensuring sufficient resources and empowering labour inspectors remain crucial to further progress, including with regards to the elimination of forced labour and child labour.

To ensure continued GSP+ eligibility and increased compliance with international commitments, in particular in view of the revised GSP rules as of 2027, the following key priorities for future engagement stand out: enabling space for civic space and media freedom; torture prevention and reform of the criminal justice system; ensuring the enforcement of labour rights through a fully empowered and well-resourced Labour Inspectorate, and implementing anti-corruption plans, transparency, and rule of law.

2. Key Developments

2.1 Political and economic developments

The EU and Kyrgyzstan signed an Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA) on 25 June 2024. The trade and economic relations aspects of the EPCA will be complementary with the market access and sustainability commitments offered to Kyrgyzstan by the EU's GSP+. The EPCA is currently in the process of being ratified by Kyrgyzstan and EU member states. When consenting to the EPCA, the European Parliament adopted an associated resolution highlighting concerns on human rights². The provisional application of the EPCA will start as soon as Kyrgyzstan notifies the EU of the completion of its internal procedures.

Kyrgyzstan remains classified as a lower-middle-income country by the World Bank. The Kyrgyz economy continues to record exceptionally high real growth rates (8 % estimate for 2025, around 9 % annually in 2022-2024) supported by a favourable external environment³. The high growth has contributed to improving social conditions. The national poverty rate declined from 29.8 % in 2021 to 25.7 % in 2024. However, real incomes increased at a slower pace due to inflation pressures. Economically, the country is based on services, mining, trade, and goods manufacturing. Nevertheless, it remains heavily dependent on remittances from migrant workers (primarily in Russia and Kazakhstan), which accounted for nearly 16 % of GDP in 2025.

Kyrgyzstan held early parliamentary elections on 30 November 2025, initially planned for November 2026. They were considered efficiently run but a restrictive campaign environment stifled candidate and voter engagement; fundamental freedoms of expression, association, and peaceful assembly were increasingly constrained in practice; and civil society and observation efforts were restricted⁴. Kyrgyzstan had overhauled its electoral system only half a year before the snap parliamentary elections, in June 2025. The law changed the earlier mixed electoral system to a fully majoritarian model and simplified the system by dividing the country into 30 constituencies each electing three MPs, at least one of them a woman. The reform, adopted with little public consultation, effectively abolished the earlier open party system and has significantly diminished the role of political parties.

Regional and global geopolitical developments continue to have a profound influence on Kyrgyzstan's foreign policy and domestic politics, not least the multifaceted effects of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Kyrgyzstan pursues a multi-vector foreign policy and traditional dependencies on Russia coexist alongside a concerted push for alternative partners. China is Kyrgyzstan's largest trading partner by a large margin with a trade turnover (exports plus imports) of EUR 5.1 billion in 2024, while total trade with Russia – the next in line - stood at about EUR 3 billion, both partners presenting 56.7 % of total trade turnover in 2024⁵. Bishkek works increasingly in constructive tandem with its Central Asian neighbours. The signing of the border agreement between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (and a trilateral border agreement including Uzbekistan) in March 2025 laid to rest a long-standing source of tension between the two countries – a historic achievement that has provided new impetus also to the wider project of regional stability and cooperation in Central Asia.

2.2 GSP+ trade impact

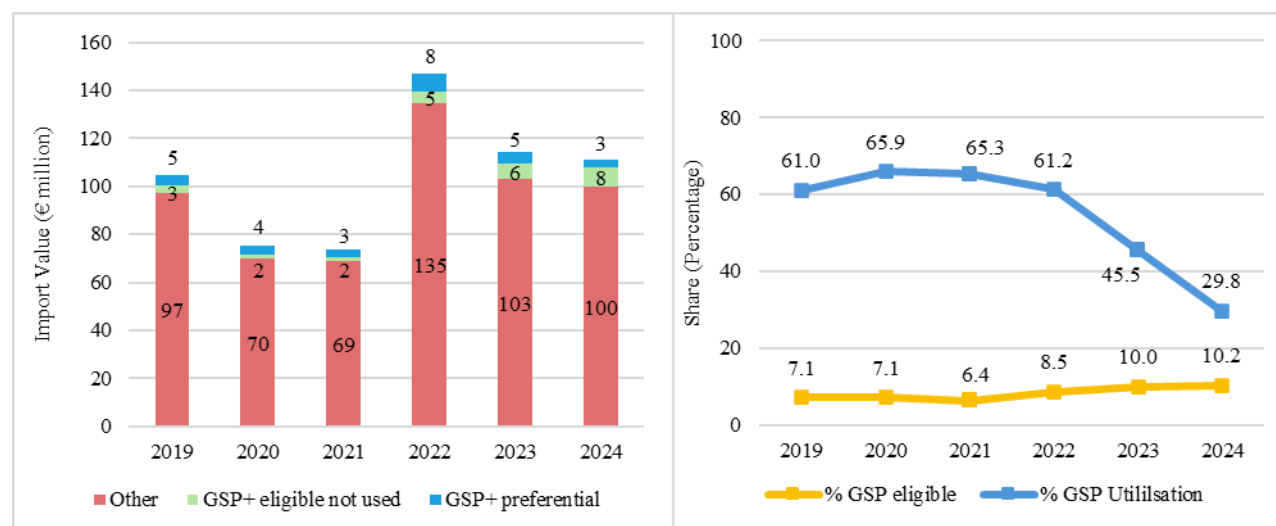
Kyrgyzstan's GSP+ utilisation rate remained low and dropped considerably from 2022 to 2024⁶, standing at 61.2 % in 2022, 45.5 % in 2023, and further dropping to 29.8 % in 2024, resulting in GSP+ imports in 2024 below pre-COVID levels. This decline was largely driven by Kyrgyz imports of fruit and vegetables into the EU falling and not claiming GSP+ preferences. At the

same time, Kyrgyz imports into the EU eligible for GSP+ remained relatively high and above pre-COVID levels, suggesting significant untapped potential. Total Kyrgyz imports entering the EU declined by 13.1 % annually, from EUR 147.2 million in 2022 to EUR 111.1 million in 2024, but remained above pre-Covid levels. MFN duty-free Kyrgyz imports declined by 10.4 % annually), from EUR 134 million in 2022 to EUR107.6 million in 2024, but also above pre-COVID levels. However, the share of Kyrgyz imports entering the EU using MFN duty-free rate rose, increasing from 91 % in 2022 to 96.9 % in 2024. As a result of GSP+, Kyrgyzstan benefited from being exempt from an estimated EUR 234 000 in tariffs in 2024.

Figure 1. EU imports from Kyrgyzstan and GSP+ utilisation rate, 2019-2024

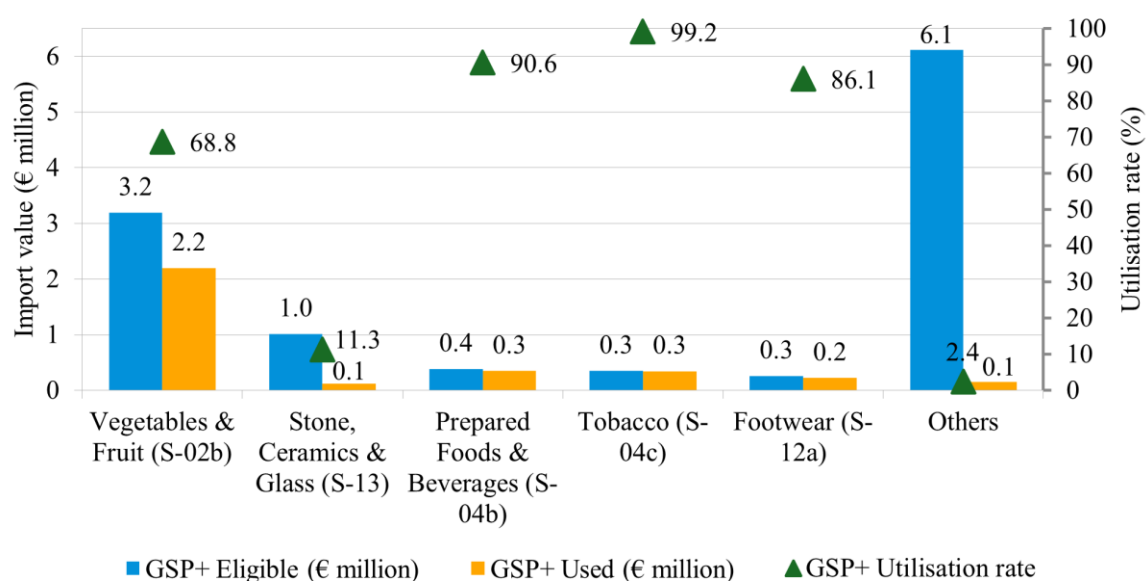
Indicators	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Annual Growth (2022-2024)
Total imports, (EUR million)	104.7	75.3	73.7	147.2	114.5	111.1	-13.1 %
GSP+ eligible, (EUR million)	7.4	5.4	4.7	12.5	11.4	11.3	-5.1 %
GSP+ used, (EUR million)	4.5	3.5	3.1	7.7	5.2	3.4	-33.8 %
Share of GSP+ eligible in total	7.1 %	7.1 %	6.4 %	8.5 %	10.0 %	10.2 %	-
GSP+ utilisation rate	61.0 %	65.9 %	65.3 %	61.2 %	45.5 %	29.8 %	-
MFN=0 % imports, (EUR million) ⁷	97.2	69.9	68.7	134.0	102.6	107.6	-10.4 %
Share of MFN=0 % imports	92.8 %	92.8 %	93.2 %	91.0 %	89.6 %	96.9 %	-

Figure 2. EU imports from Kyrgyzstan by trade regime and utilisation rates, 2019-2024



In 2024, the product sectors⁸ benefiting most from GSP+ preferences (by EU import value) were: Vegetables & Fruit (S-02b⁹), Stone, Ceramics & Glass (S-13) out of which Kyrgyzstan primarily exports glass, Prepared Foods & Beverages (S-04b), Tobacco (S-04c), and Footwear (S-12a). Vegetables & Fruit recorded the highest GSP+ eligible imports (EUR 3.2 million), although their utilisation rate remained moderate at 68.8 %. By contrast, Tobacco, Prepared Foods & Beverages, and Footwear achieved high utilisation rates (99.2 %, 90.6 % and 86.1 % respectively), but each accounted for less than EUR 0.4 million in GSP+-eligible imports.

Figure 3. Top product groups benefiting from GSP+ tariff preferences for Kyrgyzstan, 2024



3. Compliance with GSP+ obligations

Kyrgyzstan has maintained ratification of all 27 GSP+ relevant conventions and has issued no new reservations. Kyrgyzstan is broadly compliant with its reporting obligations to the monitoring bodies, with some delays in particular on labour rights (for details, see Annex). This section is based on the latest UN monitoring body reports and supplemented with information from civil society and GSP monitoring. Kyrgyzstan has continuously engaged with the EU GSP+ monitoring process through regular exchanges of information, including at high level events, and a GSP+ monitoring mission back-to-back with the most recent human rights dialogue in November 2024.

3.1 Human Rights

In April 2025, Kyrgyzstan's human rights record was reviewed under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at the UN Human Rights Council¹⁰. While the country welcomed a high number of UPR recommendations, including on combating domestic violence and protecting children's rights, Kyrgyzstan only took note of key recommendations on the shrinking civic space, freedom of expression, and media freedom.

Kyrgyzstan has made some progress and efforts in child protection and women's rights.

In the area of **child protection**, in April 2025, Kyrgyzstan presented an Action Plan for implementing the concluding observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child based on the fifth and sixth periodic reports of Kyrgyzstan on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child for 2025-2028. According to the 2023 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey for the Kyrgyz Republic, mortality of children under 5 years of age decreased in recent years and stood at 16.5 children per 1 000 live births in 2024¹¹. Stunting is moderately high with overall 14 % of children being affected (16 % in poor households). While school enrolment at the primary and lower secondary level is high (99 % and 98 % respectively), early childhood education enrolment remains low (32 %). Violence against children remains a serious problem: 37 % of children are exposed to violent physical punishment, 60 % experience psychological aggression and 65 % experience other forms of violence, while 20 % are engaged in child labour.

Kyrgyzstan has also made efforts to foster **gender equality** and counter **gender-based violence**, in line with their commitments under the Convention on the Elimination of all Discrimination Against Women. The National Action Plans on Gender Equality (2022–2024 and 2025-2027 under endorsement) under the Gender Equality Strategy through 2030 outline the implementation of strategic objectives for reducing gender disparities in education, employment, and political participation, though their implementation has been uneven. The endorsement of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (2026-2028) and the establishment of the Gender Council under the Speaker of Parliament provide further opportunities to strengthen women’s leadership and advance efforts towards gender equality. However, gaps in legislative oversight and limited implementation highlight the need for scaled up action and mobilisation. Legislative reforms, including amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code, laws on alimony, and legal aid, reflect growing political will to protect women’s rights and strengthen enforcement mechanisms. In August 2024, Kyrgyzstan adopted amendments to the Criminal Code and related legislation¹² with the aim to enhance protection against domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence (GBV). The amendments eliminate the possibility of reconciliation in cases of rape and sexual assault, increase penalties for battery, remove eligibility for probation in case of convictions for sexual acts with children under 16, bride kidnapping, and forced marriage, and introduce GBV risk assessment protocol. Further legislative amendments of October 2025¹³ introduced higher penalties for domestic violence. Kyrgyzstan opened a ‘One Stop Service Centre for Victims of Violence’, in May 2024 with EU and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) support that provides medical, psychological and legal assistance to victims and survivors of domestic and gender-based violence. Gender-based violence remains a pervasive issue, despite Kyrgyzstan’s efforts.

Systemic challenges persist in Kyrgyzstan’s human rights landscape, particularly in **torture prevention, anti-discrimination**, and in terms of an **increased restriction of civic and media space**.

The dissolution of the National Centre for the Prevention of Torture (NCPT) in mid-2025 and the transfer of its mandate to the Ombudsperson¹⁴ has eliminated the only independent body mandated to monitor places of detention and to document allegations of torture and ill-treatment in line with the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT)¹⁵. The UN Subcommittee on the **Prevention of Torture** criticised this decision, which it considers was taken by the parliament without public consultation or transparency. The NCPT used to be considered a model for the Central Asia region, as the only independent national human rights institution meeting international standards. Concern about the independence of the Ombudsperson and lack of sufficient resources allocated for its functioning have been raised during the UPR (recommendations 140.31-140.76). Accredited with ‘B’ status in 2012, the Kyrgyz Ombudsman Institute still retains this classification and must address five key areas identified by the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) to achieve full ‘A’ status compliance.

Kyrgyzstan’s **civic and media space** has faced growing restrictions in recent years, raising concerns about shrinking freedoms and government pressure on independent voices. Kyrgyzstan's Constitution guarantees the right to **freedom of expression and free media**. However, several laws adopted over the last years impose substantial restrictions. Recent laws that may negatively impact freedom of expression include the Mass Media law (August 2025) that expands government control over independent media outlets; and the law ‘On Amendments to the Code of Offenses’ (July 2025), which seeks to impose administrative sanctions and fines on individuals and legal entities outlets for disseminating false information on social media, messaging platforms, and traditional media outlets. In addition, the law on the ‘Protection from False Information’ from 2021 continues to grant the authorities the right to

order the removal of articles and block or shut down websites containing information deemed to be ‘false’ or ‘inaccurate’ without a court order; the law has since been used at least four times against major media outlets¹⁶. The law on ‘Protecting children from harmful information’, adopted in 2023, aims to curb distribution of online material that features ‘non-traditional sexual relationships’ and undermines ‘family values’ or promotes illegal/anti-social behaviour and substance abuse. Critics have pointed out that the law not only targets LGBTIQ+ persons but also paves the way of possible online censorship. In 2024, the law was used to ban TikTok in Kyrgyzstan. Kyrgyzstan also introduced a state monopoly over international internet traffic from 15 August 2025 until 14 August 2026.

State policies regarding **freedom of conscience and religion**, freedom of association, and freedom of expression have significantly tightened. In February 2025, a new Law ‘On Freedom of Religion and Religious Associations’ entered into force, alongside corresponding amendments to the Code of Offences, which introduce liability for violating a wide range of restrictions on religious activity, including mandatory registration and a minimum 500 Kyrgyz citizens requirement. In July 2025, amendments were introduced to the Criminal Code, the Code of Offences, and the Law ‘On Countering Extremist Activity’, establishing criminal liability for the possession of extremist materials, carrying sentences of up to three years of imprisonment. Consequently, any individual can now be prosecuted for possessing audio-visual materials, even in cases where they were unaware of the unlawful nature of such information.

Reports from local NGOs and international observers highlight increased harassment and legal prosecution of journalists, human rights defenders, and civil society activists¹⁷. Between 2022 and 2026, OHCHR has documented 114 instances of criminal prosecutions against 112 individuals linked to freedom of expression. These criminal prosecutions systematically use vague Criminal Code provisions, for example, Article 278 (‘calls for mass unrest’), relying almost exclusively on state-commissioned forensic linguistic and political science expertise. Independent media outlets have faced legal intimidation, arbitrary fines, closures, and politically motivated lawsuits and extremism labels, particularly when reporting on corruption, human rights abuses, or government criticism. The so-called ‘Foreign Representatives’ Law, adopted in April 2024, requires Non-Commercial Organisations and NGOs that receive foreign funding and engage in ‘political activity’ to register as ‘foreign representatives’. The implementation framework has yet to be finalised but the adoption of the law has already had a chilling effect on the wider civil society community in Kyrgyzstan, forcing many organisations to abandon their role and rights-based advocacy. Without stronger protections for free speech and civic participation, Kyrgyzstan’s compliance with international human rights conventions, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), remains at risk. Some potentially positive trends were observed in February-March 2026 following changes in the leadership of the powerful security service. However, their real impact is yet to be seen.

There are also concerns about **judicial independence**¹⁸, and the problematic system of ‘pre-investigative checks’, which allows law enforcement officials 30 days to look into a case before registering it, as it risks violating victims’ rights to an effective and timely investigation.

Kyrgyzstan abolished the **death penalty** in 2007 and ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, which prohibits reinstating the death penalty in 2010. However, in December 2025, the president proposed to reinstate the death penalty despite Kyrgyzstan’s international obligations. In its ruling of December 2025, the Kyrgyz Constitutional Court reaffirmed the country's commitment to its constitutional and international obligations in this regard. The

Court made it clear that reintroducing the death penalty through a constitutional amendment would be ‘unconstitutional, impermissible and legally impossible’. It emphasised that the Constitution ‘requires compliance with relevant international obligations when making decisions at the national level’ and highlighted that the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR does not provide a denunciation mechanism. The obligation is permanent, according to the Court.

The lack of proper definition of **discrimination** in the Kyrgyz Criminal code and the persistent discrimination noted for example in 2024 by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) against LGBTIQ+ persons, persons with disabilities, and persons living with HIV/AIDS continues to be of concern¹⁹. The CESCR requested that Kyrgyzstan repeal the 2023 discriminatory legislation (‘Law on protecting children from harmful information’), which sanctions persons for disseminating information ‘contrary to traditional family and social values and promoting non-traditional sexual relations’. It also expressed concern over health-related legal provisions that discriminate against transgender persons, such as the law on the protection of the health of citizens, under which the minimum age for accessing gender-affirming care has been increased to 25. On 30 January 2026, a draft bill potentially banning legal recognition of gender was proposed. The law, which passed its first reading on 4 June 2026, would effectively prohibit legal gender recognition and gender-affirming healthcare by defining gender as immutable and based solely on biological characteristics at birth. In April 2026, the Constitutional Court of the Kyrgyz Republic upheld a provision of the Law on Citizenship allowing the termination of citizenship of naturalised citizens on national security grounds. The case raised significant human rights concerns related to the broad and vague interpretation of ‘national security’, the lack of sufficient judicial safeguards, and the risk of arbitrary deprivation of nationality and discriminatory treatment of naturalized citizens.

Priorities for future engagement include protecting civic space and avoiding unduly restricting the operations of NGOs. It is also important that Kyrgyzstan respects the freedom of expression and assembly, including the freedom of the media. Torture prevention efforts remain necessary, as well as criminal justice system reform, including the strengthening of independent oversight. Protections for women, children, and minorities also should be strengthened, including through the adoption of the comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Law, in line with international standards.

3.2 Labour Rights

While Kyrgyzstan has made some positive steps forward by lifting the moratorium on labour inspections and implementing new legislation to work towards gender equality on the labour market, concerns remain as regards the effective realisation of freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining. Work on ensuring non-discrimination beyond gender equality and ensuring sufficient resources and empowering labour inspectors remain crucial to further progress.

Kyrgyzstan has not submitted its most recent reports due in 2024 on Conventions No. 29 and No. 105 (concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour and the Abolition of Forced Labour) and No. 138 and No. 182 (concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment and the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour)²⁰. The ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions (CEACR) noted that the report provided by the Government in 2024 on Convention No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value and Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation merely repeats the

information submitted in 2019. Therefore, there is no updated independent assessment from the ILO publicly available on these crucial conventions. A new Labour Code was adopted in January 2025²¹; however, the CEACR has not yet assessed whether the Code responds to its previous request. Its impact on the overall labour rights situation is yet to be seen.

While the moratorium on **labour inspections**, in place since 2020, was lifted in January 2025²², a draft presidential decree put forward in January 2026 would reintroduce the moratorium on business inspections until the end of the year. The CEACR recalled in its 2026 report that, ‘any moratorium placed on labour inspection is a serious violation of the Convention [no. 81 concerning Labour Inspection in Industry and Commerce]²³’. The International Labour Conference’s Committee on the Application of Standards (CAS) has reviewed and issued a set of recommendations to Kyrgyzstan concerning Convention No. 81, including as regards the moratorium, number of labour inspectors, and the powers of labour inspectors, which currently remain severely limited. In this regard, the CEACR notes that the number of labour inspectors remains of deep concern pending a moratorium on the hiring of new inspectors until 2026.

As regards **non-discrimination**, on Convention No 100 and Convention No 111, the new Labour Code (entry into force 24 January 2025) in its Article 139 establishes a prohibition on the employment of pregnant women and women who are breastfeeding in heavy work, work under harmful and/or hazardous conditions, and underground work. Work is under way to establish a list of hazardous work for pregnant and breastfeeding women, as opposed to professions prohibited to women in general. Kyrgyzstan took a positive step by ratifying ILO Convention No. 190 on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work. Despite these positive steps, further work is needed on non-discrimination in general to ensure that the legislative framework is fully in line with the two conventions. ILO has yet to formally assess whether the longstanding CEACR requests have been addressed in the new Labour Code, including to better reflect the principles of equal pay for work of equal value; to ensure that any restrictions to the access of women to certain categories of work are strictly limited to the protection of maternity; and review and amend any other gender-based discriminatory legal provisions and address the causes of the gender pay gap; to define and prohibit sexual harassment in the workplace. The CEACR in its direct request of 2025 also noted with regret that enforcement gaps exist and observed that discrimination is rarely sanctioned, victims’ rights are not restored, and there are no specialised bodies to protect victims of discrimination.

Efforts to combat **forced labour and human trafficking** reported by the Kyrgyz government have included the adoption of the Programme to Combat Trafficking in Persons (2022–2025), the establishment of regional Coordination Councils to improve inter-agency cooperation, and the information strategy for the prevention of trafficking in persons in Kyrgyzstan for the period 2024–2026²⁴. The 2021 Criminal Code sets out imprisonment for the use of forced labour, maintained in the 2025 Penal Code²⁵. Since October 2025, the Government is implementing a ‘Single Window’, which aims to enable the provision of social, medical, and legal assistance to victims of domestic violence and human trafficking, in coordination with the relevant accommodation facilities. Kyrgyzstan has made a positive step towards working on protecting Kyrgyz workers abroad by ratifying ILO Convention No. 181 on Private Employment Agencies on 26 November 2025. However, information on the implementation of the above measures is lacking.

In its 2023 direct request, the CEACR observed that the Penal Code of 2021 (Section 200) provides for the imposition of **penalties involving compulsory labour** in circumstances defined in terms which are broad enough to give rise to questions about their conformity with Convention No. 105²⁶. The CEACR also stressed that the range of activities that must be

protected from punishment involving compulsory labour includes the right to freedom of expression and the right to freedom of association and assembly, among others. It requested the government to ensure that in practice persons who peacefully express certain political views or views ideologically opposed to the established political, social or economic system are not punished with penalties involving compulsory labour²⁷.

Despite efforts, **child labour** remains widespread, with the 2023 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) revealing that 20 % of children are engaged in child labour, while the National Statistics Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic puts the share of children aged 5–17 involved in labour activities at 26.7 % in 2023. The worst forms of child labour are concentrated in rural areas, particularly in agriculture, and in children in the poorest quintile. The Government intends to tackle child labour through addressing the situation of children in difficult life situations. In 2023 the Government reported returning 354 children to attending general education out of 403 children found outside the school system. However, information on the implementation of the Program for the Protection of Children for 2023–26 and other measures to tackle child labour is scarcely available. In 2023, the Committee called on the Government to provide information on the practical steps taken to implement Conventions No. 138 and No. 182, criminalise the sexual exploitation of children, ensure adequate capacity for labour inspectors, establish a positive list of light work permitted for children aged 14-16, and to ensure that all employers are required to maintain a register of all persons under the age of 18 years whom they employ, among others²⁸.

No developments have been recorded as regards the implementation of Conventions no. 87 and no. 98 on **freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining**. There has been no advancement on reducing the excessive thresholds for organising strikes or the severity of sanctions in cases of taking part in unsanctioned protests or strikes. In its report of 2026, CEACR notes a number of allegations by the International Trade Union Confederation, including interference in the elections of the Federation of Trade Unions of Kyrgyzstan (FPK), to which the Government has provided a reply, while the CEACR still requests further comments²⁹.

Priorities for future engagement include the need for Kyrgyzstan to comply with the regular reporting obligations to the ILO and its supervisory mechanism. On substance, the Kyrgyz authorities should further work to ensure the independence of social partners both in law and in practice, and the effective enjoyment of the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining, including with regards to the right to strike. Additionally, Kyrgyzstan should ensure protection against discrimination through further work on the legal framework and its enforcement and apply a clear definition of direct/indirect discrimination, which covers all stages of employment and all grounds for discrimination. The country should also implement further measures to prevent child labour, forced labour, and trafficking in human beings, provide the necessary protection to victims, and investigate and criminally prosecute perpetrators with deterrent penalties. It is crucial that the labour inspectorate is well-resourced and fully empowered to effectively execute its duties.

3.3 Environment and Climate

Kyrgyzstan has ambitious environmental and climate plans, which it pursues with international support, while compliance challenges persist.

Kyrgyzstan announced its objective to achieve **carbon neutrality** by 2050 at CoP26 in 2021 subsequently reflecting this long-term ambition in national climate policy and new Nationally

Determined Contribution (NDC) submissions under the Paris Agreement and related to the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)³⁰.

Work is underway to align the new State Programme on **Biodiversity** Conservation through 2040, serving as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework³¹. A United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)-supported *Ak Ilbirs* ecological corridor of about 800 000 hectares announced in 2025 will link major mountain protected areas to maintain connectivity for snow leopards and other species³². A positive development was the adoption on 24 January 2025 of the Law ‘On biological safety in the Kyrgyz Republic’. The law sets out state policy principles, institutional responsibilities, and regulatory requirements for activities involving genetically modified organisms and related biotechnology and is intended to support implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. At the same time, a 2024 World Bank gap analysis finds that biodiversity-related legislation is broadly developed but only partly reflects concepts such as no-net-loss, critical habitat and sustainable use and that enforcement and institutional capacity need strengthening³³. CBD and UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) assessments underline fragmented legislation, insufficient and sometimes inefficient biodiversity finance and the absence so far of a fully functioning NBSAP monitoring and information system³⁴.

Kyrgyzstan overhauled its **waste** legislation by adopting the new Law ‘On Production and Consumption Waste’ No 181 in August 2023, replacing the 2001 framework and setting state policy principles, rules on hazardous-waste management, licensing, waste inventories and extended producer responsibility³⁵. This effort should bring it closer to alignment with the Basel Convention, notably regarding control of transboundary movements of hazardous waste and environmentally sound management. It also contributes to implementation of the Stockholm Convention and may support obligations under the Rotterdam Convention.

Kyrgyzstan made progress in the implementation of the **Convention on international trade in endangered species (CITES)** during the reporting period, while its legislation remains designated as Category 2. At CITES Standing Committee 77 (November 2023), progress on national laws was noted, and Kyrgyzstan was removed from the list of countries for which a formal warning on legislation had been proposed. Kyrgyzstan joined the Samarkand Declaration and Regional Cooperation Action Plan (2025-2032) on wildlife protection at CITES Conference of the Parties 20 (CoP20) in 2025. The Declaration aims at enhancing enforcement coordination, information exchange, and capacity building, signalling continued engagement in multilateral and regional wildlife protection efforts. In 2024–2025 the authorities cooperated with TRAFFIC (The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network) and Fauna & Flora to develop a new electronic CITES database and organised training for customs and border officers on its use, with full hand-over of the system planned for September 2025³⁶. Although the new electronic database is a major step, it was still being finalised and rolled out in 2025, so its full impact on CITES reporting and controls has yet to materialise.

Despite positive measures, Kyrgyzstan revoked certain environmental protections during the reporting period. In 2024, Kyrgyzstan revoked the 2019 ‘Prohibition of activities related to the geological study of subsurface resources for the purpose of prospecting, exploration, and development of uranium and thorium deposits’, which aimed to protect public health, lands, water reservoirs, flora and fauna as well as ensure radiation and environmental safety standards. In addition, 2024 amendments to the Law on Biosphere Territories revoked the prohibition of geological exploration and development of mineral resources in biosphere zones including

Issyk Kul region. The lifting of these protections has already resulted in deforestation and shallowing of Issyk Kul lake, and wider biosphere impacts.

Priorities for future engagement include focusing on stronger domestic implementation. Overall, the key direction should be towards institutional strengthening, improved monitoring and reporting systems, better inter-ministerial coordination, and mobilisation of finance to close persistent implementation gaps and demonstrate credible progress under GSP+ environmental commitments. In the climate sphere, this means advancing Kyrgyzstan's low-emission pathway, clarifying its carbon-neutrality ambition, expanding renewable energy, and strengthening adaptation in water, agriculture, and disaster-risk management. Finalising and implementing the revised biodiversity strategy in line with the CBD framework is equally important. Additionally, Kyrgyzstan should operationalise the 2023 waste legislation under the Basel Convention, strengthen hazardous-waste oversight, and improve data reporting. Enhancing CITES implementation through electronic permitting, improved non-detriment findings, and better customs capacity also remains a priority.

3.4 Good Governance

Kyrgyzstan undertook significant legislative reforms to its **drug-control** framework in January 2024, adopting three new laws: 'on Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, Their Analogues and Precursors'³⁷, 'on Drug Circulation'³⁸, and 'on the Protection of Public Health'³⁹. The latter embeds measures to reduce drug and alcohol harm, anchoring prevention, treatment, and harm-reduction in primary legislation. Together, these laws implement the Anti-Drug Programme and Action Plan 2022–2026⁴⁰. However, the 2025 amendments to the Criminal Code indicate a punitive shift overall: strengthened penalties for serious drug-related offences and eliminated parole/statute of limitations for some of those crimes.

In 2023, authorities launched a broad crackdown on organised crime, yet drug trafficking along the 'Northern Route' reportedly remains largely unaffected. Synthetic-drug manufacture and trafficking continue to rise: according to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) reporting in 2024 and 2025, clandestine laboratory dismantling increased from 3 in 2021 to 11 in 2022 and 12 in 2023⁴¹. Because of the persistence of the illicit cultivation of cannabis, national authorities have sustained their annual eradication campaigns in 2024 and have continued to detect instances of clandestine outdoor cultivation⁴². In 2024, authorities seized over 15 tons of drugs, nearly matching the combined total for 2021–2023 (17.3 tons). In the same year, 1 163 drug crimes were recorded, with 961 individuals prosecuted, including 17 minors and 17 foreign nationals. The number of people registered at drug-treatment facilities continues to decline, from 8 226 in 2021 to 7 672 in 2022 and 6 768 in 2023. As in other countries using the same system, these figures reflect official narcological registers, which may not capture the full extent of drug use due to stigma, fear of registration, and reporting inconsistencies. Furthermore, users of 'new' drugs (synthetic and recreational) have little incentive to register since no proper treatment is offered yet in Kyrgyzstan.

Kyrgyzstan is currently undergoing the second United Nations Conventions against **Corruption** (UNCAC) peer-review cycle, with the country visit conducted in July 2025; the executive summary has not yet been published.

In June 2024, the authorities adopted a new Anti-Corruption Strategy 2025–2030 and an accompanying Action Plan for 2025–2027, emphasising comprehensive legal and institutional reforms. As a follow-up, on 31 December 2024 Kyrgyzstan adopted Law No 209 'On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts in the Field of Counteracting Corruption', introducing

tougher liability for corruption offences. A key change is the removal of fines as a possible sanction for corruption crimes, which now carry mandatory imprisonment.

Despite these reform efforts, Kyrgyzstan continues to score low on most Worldwide Governance Indicators by the World Bank, particularly on Control of Corruption, where its score fell from 27.96 in 2019 to 24.85 in 2024⁴³. In Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2025, Kyrgyzstan ranked 142nd of 180 countries, with a score of 26/100, marking a one-point improvement compared with 2024^{44,45}. The November 2024 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) monitoring report⁴⁶ of the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan (IAP) indicates low scores in all respective areas (based on the new peer-review methodology). Independent monitoring by Freedom House⁴⁷ and CIVICUS Monitor⁴⁸ highlights that civil society and independent media in Kyrgyzstan face increasing legal and operational pressures. UN human rights experts warn that these pressures are discouraging civic activism, media reporting, and independent oversight, including in the field of anti-corruption.

Priorities for future engagement include strengthening judicial independence, implementing the anti-corruption Strategy and Action Plan, and enhancing the effectiveness of drug control through a balanced, human-rights-centred approach, including improving the availability of alternatives to coercive sanctions and expanding access to treatment and harm-reduction services.

4. Development cooperation in support of GSP+ objectives

EU- Kyrgyzstan development cooperation is implemented mainly through NDICI—Global Europe and the Global Gateway strategy, which in Central Asia focuses on four priority areas: transport, critical raw materials, energy and water, and digital. The 2021-2027 bilateral programme with Kyrgyzstan (~EUR 98 million) supports three priorities – governance and digital transformation; a green and climate-resilient economy including water, energy and uranium-legacy remediation; and human development – fully aligned with the Kyrgyz National Development Strategy and the EU Strategy for Central Asia. This cooperation directly underpins the implementation of core UN and ILO conventions relevant for GSP+, by strengthening rule of law and public institutions, supporting climate and environmental protection, and fostering a predictable, rules-based business climate and sustainable trade.

Several interventions are particularly relevant for the GSP+ context. ‘Support to Justice Sector Reform in the Kyrgyz Republic: Advancing Probation and Integrated Criminal Justice Information Management’ (Just4All) and its successor ‘Justice Sector Reform and Digitalisation’ (Just4All2) support justice reform by advancing probation and criminal justice information management, with a strong focus on the rule of law and good governance, helping to modernise the criminal justice system and improve access to justice in line with international standards and gender responsive, human-rights-based approaches. The ‘Support to the National Preventive Mechanism against torture and to the Ombudsperson Institute of the Kyrgyz Republic’ strengthens the national human-rights architecture and safeguards against torture and ill-treatment, directly contributing to the implementation of core UN human-rights conventions. Third, the ‘Green Economy and Sustainable Private Sector Development in Kyrgyzstan’ programme, together with regional trade initiatives like ‘Ready4Trade Central Asia: Fostering Prosperity through the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor’ support greener value chains, WTO-related trade facilitation and private sector competitiveness, thereby helping Kyrgyz exporters comply with labour and environmental standards important for GSP+.

Annex: Kyrgyzstan - Compliance with GSP ratification and reporting obligations

Convention	Ratification status / Reservations	Compliance with reporting obligations to monitoring bodies
Human Rights		
1. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948)	Ratified: 05.09.1997 No reservations	No reporting obligations
2. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965)	Ratified: 05.09.1997 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last Committee report: 03.06.2025 • Last report submitted: 15.05.23 • Next report due: 05.10.2029
3. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)	Ratified: 07.10.1994 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last Committee report: 09.12.2022 • Last report submitted: 25.02.2020 • Next report due: 2029
4. International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (1966)	Ratified: 07.10.1994 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last Committee report: 11.10.2024 • Last report submitted: 20.04.2021 • Next report due: 31.10.2029
5. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979)	Ratified: 10.02.1997 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last Committee report: 10.11.2021 • Last report submitted: 15.05.2023 • Next report due: November 2025 (not submitted)
6. Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984)	Ratified: 05.09.1997 No reservations	Not compliant with reporting obligations • Last Committee report: 21.12.2021 • Last report submitted: 31.01.2019 • Next report due: 03.12.2025 (not submitted)
7. Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)	Ratified: 07.10.1994 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last Committee report: 28.09.2023 • Last report submitted: 12.11.2019 • Next report due: not yet set
Labour Rights¹²		
8. Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, No 29 (1930)	Ratified: 31.03.1992	Not compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments: 2025 • Last Government report submitted: 2022 • Next report due: 2025 (not submitted)
9. Convention concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise, No 87 (1948)	Ratified: 31.03.1992	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments: 2025 • Last Government report submitted: 2024 • Next report due: 2027 (provisional schedule)
10. Convention concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organise and to Bargain Collectively, No 98 (1949)	Ratified: 31.03.1992	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments: 2025 • Last Government report submitted: 2024 • Next report due: 2027 (provisional schedule)
11. Convention concerning Equal Remuneration of Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value, No 100 (1951)	Ratified: 31.03.1992	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments: 2024 • Last Government report submitted: 2023 • Next report due: 2029 (provisional schedule)

¹ Following a decision taken by the ILO Governing Body in November 2025 to modernise the ILO reporting system, as from 2027 Governments will no longer submit separate reports for each ratified Convention, but instead, they will submit thematic reports based on a new ILO template which has grouped the conventions and protocols into 15 thematic areas. As 2026 will be a transition year, only a limited number of reports will be requested in 2026. See: The future of reporting on ratified conventions. <https://www.ilo.org/international-labour-standards/applying-and-promoting-international-labour-standards-overview-ilo/future-reporting-ratified-conventions>

² Reservations do not apply in the ILO system.

Convention	Ratification status / Reservations	Compliance with reporting obligations to monitoring bodies
12. Convention concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour, No 105 (1957)	Ratified: 18.02.1999	Not compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments: 2025 • Last Government report submitted: 2022 • Next report due: 2025 (not submitted)
13. Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation, No 111 (1958)	Ratified: 31.03.1992	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments: 2024 • Last Government report submitted: 2023 • Next report due: 2027 (provisional schedule)
14. Convention concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, No 138 (1973)	Ratified: 31.03.1992	Not compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments: 2025 • Last Government report submitted: 2022 • Next report due: 2025 (not submitted)
15. Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, No 182 (1999)	Ratified: 10.05.2004	Not compliant with reporting obligations • Latest CEACR comments: 2025 • Latest Government report submitted: 2022 • Next report due: 2025 (not submitted)
Environment and Climate		
16. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (1973)	Ratified: 02.09.2007 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Annual Trade Report for 2023 submitted 05.04.2024 • Annual Trade Report for 2024 submitted 14.01.2026 • Next Annual Trade Report due 31.10.2026 • Last Annual Illegal Trade Reports submitted for 2023, 2024³ • Last Implementation Reports: 2015-2017
17. Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987)	Ratified: 31.05.2000 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations Last report submitted: • Article 7 data report covering 2024 Next report: • Article 7 data report covering 2025 due 30.09.2026
18. Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (1989)	Ratified: 13.08.1996 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • National report (NR) for 2023 submitted 14.01.2025 • NR for 2024 submitted 30.12.2025 • Next NR (2025) due 31.12.2026
19. Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)	Ratified:06.08.1996 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Seventh National Report (7NR) submitted 05.03.2026. • Latest National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) update: submitted 05.03.2026. • Next report: 8NR due 30.06.2029.
20. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)	Ratified:25.05.2000 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Latest updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0) submitted 30.09.2025 • Latest National Communication (NC): NC4, submitted 16.12.2024 • First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) submitted 06.11.2025 • Next report (BTR2) due 31.12.2026
21. Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2000)	Ratified: 05.10.2005	Compliant with reporting obligations • Latest National Report: 5NR submitted 12.03.2026 • Next report: Not yet set

³ Reporting mandatory but not subject to compliance procedure.

Convention	Ratification status / Reservations	Compliance with reporting obligations to monitoring bodies
	No reservations	
22. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2001)	Ratified: 12.12.2006 No reservations	Not compliant with reporting obligations • Latest National Report: 4NR submitted 01.11.2018 • Next report: 5NR due 31.08.2022 (not submitted); 6th NR report due 31.08.2026 • Initial National Implementation Plan (NIP) submitted 02.04.2009 • NIP updates: COP4 and COP5 amendments included
23. Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1998)	Ratified: 13.05.2003 No reservations	No reporting obligations separate from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
Good Governance		
24. United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961)	Ratified: 07.10.1994 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations 2024 reporting fulfilled Latest INCB mission in December 2022
25. United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971)	Ratified: 07.10.1994 No reservations	
26. United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988)	Ratified: 07.10.1994 No reservations	Not compliant with reporting obligations 2020-2025 reporting fulfilled with the exception of the submission of information on illicit trade in, legitimate uses of and requirements for substances in Tables I and II for year 2024.
27. United Nations Convention against Corruption (2003)	Ratified: 16.09.2005 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations First review cycle completed in 2019. Second review cycle is at direct dialogue stage: hybrid country visit conducted on 16-18 July 2025.

¹ Key events in 2026 at the moment of writing have been included in this Staff Working Document. All links provided were up to date as of 28 April 2026.

² European Parliament, ‘Texts adopted - EU-Kyrgyz Republic Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (Resolution)’, Tuesday, 9 Sept. 2025. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-10-2025-0171_EN.html.

³ IMF, ‘World Economic Outlook’, Oct. 2025 Update. [https://data.imf.org/en/Data-Explorer?datasetUrn=IMF.RES:WEO\(9.0.0\)](https://data.imf.org/en/Data-Explorer?datasetUrn=IMF.RES:WEO(9.0.0))

⁴ OSCE, ‘Kyrgyzstan’s parliamentary elections efficiently run but a restrictive campaign environment stifled public engagement, international observers say’, 1 Dec. 2025. <https://www.oscepa.org/en/news-a-media/press-releases/2025/kyrgyzstans-parliamentary-elections-efficiently-run-but-a-restrictive-campaign-environment-stifled-public-engagement-international-observers-say>

⁵ UN Comtrade Database. <https://comtradeplus.un.org/>.

⁶ Source for all GSP statistics: Eurostat COMEXT data covering 2022-2024 based on latest available validated full year data as of September 2025. GSP statistics only cover goods imported into the EU market, i.e., goods released for free circulation in the EU. The GSP statistics do not cover other EU-imports, like goods imported for the customs inward processing procedure or re-imports after the customs outward processing procedure. Trade flows registered as ‘confidential’ do not appear in the GSP+ usage figures and regime 1 normal trade; but do appear in total trade figures (regime

4). https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/ext_go_agg_esms.htm#conf1537195068659.

⁷ MFN import data sourced from COMEXT on 13 February 2026. Minor discrepancies may occur, and aggregated shares may exceed 100 % due to data revisions compared to GSP statistics extracted from COMEXT in September 2025.

⁸ Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 Oct. 2012 applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences, Annex V.

⁹ GSP sections are defined in the GSP Regulation and can contain multiple Common Nomenclature codes.

¹⁰ Human Rights Council, ‘Universal Periodic Review of Kyrgyzstan (4th Cycle, 49th Session), List of recommendations’, Aug. 2025. www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/upr/sessions/session49/upr49-kyrgyzstan-thematic-list-of-recommendat.docx

¹¹ UNICEF, UNFPA, USAID and Swiss Confederation, ‘Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey for the Kyrgyz Republic 2023, Snapshot of Key Findings’, Jul. 2024, p. 7. <https://www.unicef.org/kyrgyzstan/publications/mics-kyrgyz-republic-2023>

¹² The law ‘On Amendments to Some Legislative Acts of Kyrgyzstan in the field of protection from domestic, sexual and gender violence’ was adopted by the Jogorku Kenesh on 26 Jun. 2024 and signed by the President in early Aug. 2024.

¹³ The law ‘On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Kyrgyzstan’ signed on 16 October 2025.

¹⁴ The Constitutional Law ‘On Akyikatchy (the Ombudsperson) of the Kyrgyzstan’, adopted by Parliament on 25 Jun. 2025 and signed into law on 23 Sep. 2025.

¹⁵ Human Rights Watch, ‘Kyrgyzstan: Parliament Weakens Torture Protection, Media Freedom’, 27 Jun. 2025 www.hrw.org/news/2025/06/27/kyrgyzstan-parliament-weakens-torture-protection-media-freedom

¹⁶ Human Rights Watch, ‘Submission to the Universal Periodic Review of Kyrgyzstan’, 11 Oct. 2024. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/10/11/submission-universal-periodic-review-kyrgyzstan>

¹⁷ OHCHR, ‘Concern over prison sentences for Kyrgyz journalists’, 10 Oct. 2024. <http://www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2024/10/concern-over-prison-sentences-kyrgyz-journalists>.

¹⁸ International Partnership for Human Rights and Lawyers for Human Rights, ‘Report on the Results of the Monitoring of the Criminal Justice Sector in the Kyrgyz Republic’, 17 Mar. 2025. <https://iphronline.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/eng-summary-of-analytical-report-on-the-prison-system-in-the-kyrgyz-republic.pdf>

¹⁹ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ‘Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Kyrgyzstan’, E/C.12/KGZ/CO/4, 11 Oct. 2024, p. 12.

²⁰ Kyrgyzstan also did not submit its first report to the ILO following its ratification of the Protocol to ILO Convention No. 29.

²¹ CIS Legislation, https://cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=164746#:~:text=The%20Labor%20Code%20of%20the%20Kyrgyz%20Republic,forced%20labor%20*%20Prohibition%20of%20employment%20discrimination

-
- ²² International Labour Organization (ILO), ‘Individual Case (CAS) on Convention No 81’, Discussion: 2025, Publication: 113th ILC session, 2025.
https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNT_RY_ID:4438681,103529.
- ²³ ILO, ‘Application of International Labour Standards 2026’, Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations. <https://www.ilo.org/resource/conference-paper/ilc/ilc114/application-international-labour-standards-2026>.
- ²⁴ Human Rights Council, ‘National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, Kyrgyzstan’, para. 43. <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4078855?v=pdf&ln=en>.
- ²⁵ The 2021 Criminal Code was amended in 2025; Art. 170 establishes imprisonment for a period of three to six years for the use of forced labour. <https://rimap.unhcr.org/node/62416>.
- ²⁶ ILO, ‘Direct Request (CEACR) on Convention No 105’, adopted 2023, published 112th ILC session, 2024.
- ²⁷ ILO, ‘Observation (CEACR) on Convention No 105’, adopted 2023, published 112th ILC session, 2024
https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNTRY_ID:4357017,103529:NO
- ²⁸ ILO, ‘Observation (CEACR) on Conventions No 138 and No 182’, adopted 2023, published 112th ILC session, 2024.
https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNT_RY_ID:4327077,103529.
- ²⁹ ILO, ‘Application of International Labour Standards 2026’, Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, p.181-183. <https://www.ilo.org/resource/conference-paper/ilc/ilc114/application-international-labour-standards-2026>
- ³⁰ Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, ‘Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) of the Kyrgyz Republic’, 2025. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2025-10/NDC3.0_Kyrgyzstan_English_30-09-2025%20%282%29.pdf.
- ³¹ Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, ‘CBD Strategy and Action Plan’. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/kg/kg-nbsap-v3-en.pdf>.
- ³² UNEP, ‘Kyrgyz Republic unveils 800 000-hectare ecological corridor for biodiversity’, 23 May 2025.
<https://kyrgyzstan.un.org/en/294882-kyrgyz-republic-unveils-800000-hectare-ecological-corridor-biodiversity>
- ³³ World Bank, ‘Gap Analysis of Biodiversity Management Legal Framework of Kyrgyz Republic’, https://2024.iaia.org/final-papers/479_Gap_Analysis_Biodiversity_Management_and_the.pdf
- ³⁴ United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), ‘Third Environmental Performance Review (EPR) of Kyrgyzstan’, 2024. <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/environmental-performance-reviews/environmental-performance-reviews-kyrgyzstan>.
- ³⁵ FAOLEX/UNEP, Law No 181 on non-domestic and domestic waste.
<https://leap.unep.org/en/countries/kg/national-legislation/law-no-181-non-domestic-and-domestic-waste>.
- ³⁶ TRAFFIC, ‘Digital Defenders: Kyrgyzstan Arms Law Enforcement Agencies with New Data Tool to Stop Wildlife Smugglers’, 11 Aug. 2025. <https://www.traffic.org/news/digital-defenders-kyrgyzstan-arms-law-enforcement-agencies-with-new-data-tool-to-stop-wildlife-smugglers/>
- ³⁷ CIS-Legislation.com, ‘Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “About Drug Circulation”, 12 Jan. 2024. <https://www.cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=156214>
- ³⁸ CIS-Legislation.com, ‘Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “About Drug Circulation”’, Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No 13 of 12 Jan. 2024, as amended 3 Nov. 2025. <https://www.cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=156214>
- ³⁹ CIS-Legislation.com, ‘Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “About Protection of Public Health in the Kyrgyz Republic”’, Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No 14 of 12 Jan. 2024, as amended through Jan. 2026. <https://cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=156571>
- ⁴⁰ Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, Resolution No 445 of 10 Aug. 2022 approving the Anti-Drug Programme of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Action Plan for its implementation for 2022-2026. https://online.zakon.kz/Document/?doc_id=34436646&show_di=1
- ⁴¹ International Narcotics Control Board, ‘Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2024: Implementation of the International Drug Control Conventions’, March 2025.
https://www.incb.org/incb/uploads/documents/Publications/AnnualReports/AR2024/Annual_Report/E-INCB-2024-1-ENG.pdf; and International Narcotics Control Board, ‘Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2023: Implementation of the International Drug Control Conventions’, Mar. 2024.
https://www.incb.org/incb/uploads/documents/Publications/AnnualReports/AR2023/Annual_Report/E_INCB_2023_1_eng.pdf
- ⁴² International Narcotics Control Board, ‘Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2025: Implementation of the International Drug Control Conventions’, 2026.
https://unis.unvienna.org/unis/uploads/documents/2026-INCB/INCB_report_E.pdf

⁴³ World Bank, ‘Worldwide Governance Indicators: Interactive Data Access’.

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/worldwide-governance-indicators/interactive-data-access>

⁴⁴ Transparency International, ‘Corruption Perceptions Index 2025: Kyrgyz Republic’, 10 Feb. 2026.

<https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2025/index/kgz>

⁴⁵ Transparency International, ‘Corruption Perceptions Index 2024: Kyrgyz Republic’, 11 Feb. 2025.

<https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2024/index/kgz>

⁴⁶ OECD, ‘Baseline Report of the Fifth Round of Monitoring of Anti-Corruption Reforms in Kyrgyzstan: The Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan’, 19 Nov. 2024. https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/2024/11/baseline-report-of-the-fifth-round-of-monitoring-of-anti-corruption-reforms-in-kyrgyzstan_9180017b.html

⁴⁷ Freedom House, ‘Kyrgyzstan: Nations in Transit 2024’, 2024.

<https://www.freedomhouse.org/country/kyrgyzstan/nations-transit/2024>

⁴⁸ CIVICUS Monitor, ‘UN Experts Warn of “Chilling” Impact as Assault on Media, Journalists and Activists Intensifies’, 14 Oct. 2025. <https://monitor.civicus.org/explore/un-experts-warn-of-chilling-impact-as-assault-on-media-journalists-and-activists-intensifies/>