



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY  
OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF AZERBAIJAN



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Baku Forum on Sustainable Development

*Sustainable Finance and Investment*

15-16 November 2023,  
Baku, Azerbaijan

### Concept Note

#### Background

Today, the world is facing compounding shocks such as COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical instability, high inflation, and weak economic growth, narrowing monetary and financial circumstances, and unsustainable debt burdens that are threatening to reverse progress on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The impact of these multiple shocks on global economy is aggravated by an ineffective global financial system and exacerbates inequalities.

In this tough time - by the half mid-point of 2030 Agenda, beyond on the above highlighted shocks SDGs financing is one of the main significant challenges remain in front of the countries and states. Progress on fulfilling the Financing for Sustainable Development is slower and going slower than ever. Financing for Sustainable Development requires the countries and states remodel and transform their economy.

In that respect, the 2023 SDG Summit, that takes place on 18-19 September in New York, holds immense significance. It marks the beginning of a new phase aimed at accelerating progress towards the SDGs and provides high-level political guidance for transformative actions leading up to 2030 including priority transitions and areas for investment that will help maximize progress across the SDGs. As the Summit aligns with the halfway point towards the 2030 Agenda, it aims to address the global impact of various crises and reinvigorate hope, optimism, and enthusiasm for achieving the SDGs.

In this context, the Second Baku Forum will serve as a continuation of the high-level dialogue

initiated during the SDG Summit focusing on priority areas for SDG investment and priority policy changes that would yield the greatest multiplier effects across the goals. It will offer a unique opportunity for public sector and private sector to delve deep into the most challenging topics related to accelerating actions in the region. By building upon the discussions and momentum generated at the SDG Summit, the Forum aims to foster collaboration and develop strategies for effectively implementing the SDGs in the region.

The Second Baku Forum on Sustainable Development aims to address financing needs through a combination of concessional and non-concessional finance in a mutually reinforcing way, reflecting what can and must be done within the current arrangements.

In addition, the Forum aims to set forth actionable ideas and solutions for creating local pipelines of investable projects and a new financial industry for sustainable finance.

Taking this ahead, the Second Baku Forum on Sustainable Development aims to bring together an international audience composed of national government officials and experts responsible for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as representatives of regional and international organizations, including the United Nations, and of civil society and the private sector. The Forum will also be open to other non-government experts working in the areas of SDG Financing and Investment at the national, regional, and local levels. It will also welcome academia, youth, and other interested stakeholders to ensure an inclusive and integrated discussion on sustainable accelerated solutions to provide hands-on support to prompt response to SDG Financing.

### **First Baku Forum on Sustainable Development**

25-26 October 2018 marked the First Baku Forum on Sustainable Development, which focused on strengthening regional partnerships as the way to accelerate progress on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets, which are coherently integrated and indivisible. The first Baku Forum on Sustainable Development (BFSD) was convened in the quest to bring forward the importance of partnership for development and offered an interactive platform for on stage discussions, providing insights into processes, through which countries advance on their development priorities and address impediments along the way. Bringing together more than 200 people from close to 30 countries around the globe, the Baku Forum on Sustainable Development served as a platform for policy makers, legislators, researchers, advocacy groups and practitioners from different sectors to share lessons learned and best practices from the

region on monitoring, tracking, and reporting on SDG progress.

### **Second Baku Forum on Sustainable Development - Expected Outcomes**

- A networking platform to form connections and for exchange of knowledge and best practices among policymakers, private sector actors, top-level figures and specialists engaged in supporting finance for sustainable development.
- To create a platform for sharing experiences and learning from actors in the private sector who work in promoting access to sustainable finance, with a view to learning why others are failing or succeeding.
- Identify opportunities and challenges for the Financing of Sustainable Development until 2030 and beyond.
- Devise strategies to maximize the contributions of Governments, development partners and private sector to digital inclusion.
- The Forum will also raise awareness and provide extensive information relating to the roles of government, private sector and other stakeholders for achievement of SDGs.

### **Halfway through: Azerbaijan's progress on SDG implementation**

Fulfilling its commitments on the SDGs has been an integral part of the state policy in Azerbaijan. Within this framework, the Government of Azerbaijan set up the National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development and established bilateral and multilateral cooperation with local and international organizations respectively. At the national level, Azerbaijan has prioritized 88 targets and 119 indicators across all 17 SDGs. At the same time, Azerbaijan has accepted 18th National Sustainable Development Goal on mine action activities in April 2023.

In 2021 Azerbaijan submitted its third Voluntary National Review of SDGs, which featured the SDG implementation progress and the way forward amidst the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development has been instrumental in ensuring high-level attention and advocacy on SDGs, resulting in alignment of state programmes, strategies, action plans in social, economic, and environmental spheres to meet the goals and objectives of the 2030 Agenda.

Acknowledging global trends and challenges, the Government of Azerbaijan has set the country's long-term development pathways to socio-economic and environmental development through "Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development".

To operationalize the Azerbaijan 2030 development priorities, a Socio-Economic Development Strategy for 2022-2026 has been adopted in 2022 detailing the planned actions and expected results. The priorities of the Socio-Economic Development Strategy 2022-2026 are closely aligned and mapped against the SDGs.

### **Organizational context of the Forum**

#### **Date and place of the Forum**

The Second Baku Forum on Sustainable Development will be held on 15-16 November 2023 at JW Marriott Hotel in Baku, Azerbaijan. The Forum will be organized by the National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the support of the United Nations Development Program Office in Azerbaijan.

#### **Format**

The Second Baku Forum on Sustainable Development will include: opening and closing plenary sessions, interactive roundtable discussions, interim sessions, ceremony of adoption of the declaration of forum, exhibitions, public/side events.

#### **Participants**

Since the Forum is expected to be a regional platform, the invitations are sent to the selected participants from the countries in the region, particularly in Eastern Europe, CIS area, Central Asia and neighboring countries, as well as high-level representatives of United Nations and selected number of other development partners. The Forum will also invite some representatives of civil society organizations and the private sectors.

#### **Contact**

For more information on the Forum, please visit to our web-site- [www.sdg.info.az](http://www.sdg.info.az).

In any queries please do not hesitate to contact us via e-mail or phone numbers:

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Baku Forum on Sustainable Development

Wednesday, 15 November

Draft Programme  
15-16 November 2023,  
Baku, Azerbaijan

9:00- 10:00	<b>Registration</b>
<b>Grand Opening of the Forum</b> Welcome remarks by Maria Ramos, the MC, and high-level officials	
10:00- 10:10	<b>Mr. Ali Ahmadov</b> , Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Chairman of the National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development
10:10- 10:20	<b>Mr. Mikayıl Jabbarov</b> , Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Deputy Chairman of the National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development
10:20 -10:30	<b>Ms. Vladanka Andreeva</b> , UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan
10:30 -10:40	<b>Mr. Ibrahim Şenel</b> , President of the Strategy and Budget, Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye
10:40- 10:50	<b>Video message: Mr. Dennis Francis</b> , President of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly
10:50- 11:00	<b>Video Presentation: Azerbaijan and Development by the half mid-point of 2030 Agenda</b>
11:00- 11:30	<b>Group Photo &amp; Coffee Break</b>
11:30- 11:45	<b>Presentation of National SDG 18 of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Mine Action</b>
11:45- 12:00	<b>Presentation of the Azerbaijan SDG Investor Map and Impact Investing Ecosystem Study Findings</b>
12:00-13:00	<b>1<sup>st</sup> panel session: Remodeling financial architecture to achieve the SDGs</b> Keynote Speech followed by an interactive panel discussion with the representatives of invited countries and international organizations
13:00- 14:00	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00- 15:30	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> panel session: Driving Investments for the SDGs: Impact Measurement and Management</b> Keynote Speech followed by an interactive panel discussion with the representatives of invited countries and international organizations
15:30 - 16:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>

16:00 - 17:30	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> panel session: Competitive Economies through Digitalization</b> Keynote Speech followed by an interactive panel discussion with the representatives of invited countries and international organizations
19:00-21:00	<b>Official Dinner</b> <b>Hosted by the Government of Azerbaijan</b>

**Thursday, 16 November**

08:30- 09:00	<b>Registration</b>
09:00- 10:30	<b>4<sup>th</sup> panel session: Climate financing &amp; Green Growth for the SDGs</b> Keynote Speech followed by an interactive panel discussion with the representatives of invited countries and international organizations
10:30- 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00- 12:30	<b>5<sup>th</sup> panel session: Nature-based solutions and Biodiversity investments framework: from agenda to action</b> Keynote Speech followed by an interactive panel discussion with the representatives of invited countries and international organizations
12:30- 13:30	<b>Lunch</b>
13:30 - 16:30	<b>Interactive Sessions for Investors: Investment opportunities in the Republic of Azerbaijan</b> Sessions will be organized by Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in line with stakeholder interest
16:30 -17:00	<b>The adoption of the Baku Declaration</b>
17:00 -17:30	<b>Closing of the Forum</b> Closing speeches by the high-level officials