

Inputs for the Report on “Best practices, challenges and lessons learned concerning integrated approaches to the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at national level”

1. Background information

- **Name of state:**

The Republic of Azerbaijan

- **The institution responding to this survey:**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

2. Please confirm that you do agree that the responses to the survey will be made public available on OHCHR’s website?

Yes

3. Do you have a National Development Plan or equivalent document to guide SDG action?

“Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development” was approved by the Order of the President of Azerbaijan Republic dated 2 February 2021. For the long-term sustainable and accelerated development of the country, successful connections within the society-business-state triad must be strengthened. The following will be key factors in our economic recovery: effective and efficient management of the state’s role in the economy via market-oriented reforms, bolstering of private institutions, government-friendly business management, and further liberalization of trade practices for the increase of local products sold to foreign markets. Creative and innovative development of private initiatives in the country will ensure that our economic resources are directed to areas that create higher added value.

The Government of Azerbaijan established the National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development (NCCSD) as a high-level institutional mechanism to ensure inclusive stakeholder participation and policy coherence. Its activities are organised efficiently, national priorities and their indicators that correspond to the global goals and targets and are of importance to Azerbaijan until 2030 have been identified, an implementation and reporting mechanism on achieving SDGs at national level has been established, and the state programmes and strategies covering socio-economic areas in the country have been brought in line with SDGs. A core function of the Coordination Council is to ensure inclusive stakeholder participation and translate SDG Agenda into a national context by aligning national plans and strategies with the SDGs.

The Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsperson) of the Republic of Azerbaijan is part of the Coordination Council and acts as a bridge between the civil society and the Government.

4. Does the national development plan (NDP) or equivalent document(s) adopt an “integrated approach” to the implementation of protection and promotion of human rights and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda? If so, please describe how.

Over the next decade, the following five National Priorities of the country's socio-economic development have been envisaged to be implemented:

1. Steadily growing, competitive economy
2. Dynamic, inclusive society based on social justice
3. Areas of modern innovations and competitive human capital
4. The great return to the territories liberated from occupation
5. Clean environment and country of “green growth”

5. Does the NDP or equivalent document(s) guiding national SDG action include a commitment to reduce discrimination and inequality including through a focus on groups at risk of being left behind? If so, please explain and share promising practices, lessons learned and remaining challenges?

Building inclusive and resilient growth, ensuring dynamic and sustainable development, continuing investments into human capital are among the top priorities for the Government of Azerbaijan. The principle of “leaving no one behind” has become the core of its social and economic policies.

According to Paragraph 2.2. of the “Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-economic Development” document:

- All sections of the country are an integral part of society, and the state must take care of them. Minimizing poverty and low unemployment as well as expanding the scope of need-based assistance to the poor create additional opportunities for the social protection of citizens.
- A more effective and equitable social security system should strengthen such protections for the poor and vulnerable to poverty and for people with disabilities, including minors with health-related setbacks. To this end, a decent level of minimum monthly pensions and other social benefits must be achieved in our country.
- For the long-term development of the pension system, it is necessary to strengthen its financial stability as well as increase the proportionality between the size of pensions and the paid insurance fee. The required social rehabilitation infrastructure should be accessible to persons with disabilities, including minors thus afflicted. Employment support programs for these persons should be expanded and their social security should be strengthened. A system of social services should be provided in

order to meet the interests of such socially vulnerable groups and create equal opportunities for their participation in society.

6. Faced with the COVID-19 pandemic, has your country been able to adopt economic and financial policies and measures to avoid human rights setbacks and to bring your country back on track to achieve the SDGs? How has your country approached aligning SDG financing with its human rights obligations? What have been the main challenges and lessons learned?

The pandemic and derived sharp fluctuations in the global energy and stock markets, as well as obligatory lockdowns in the country to protect the health of the population, began affecting economic activity, including trade, tourism and construction, from the second quarter of 2020. In order to ensure sustainable development, as well as reduce the negative impact of the pandemic on the country's economy and employment, the Government adopted and immediately implemented an Action Plan of preventative and urgent actions. A secretariat of heads of relevant government agencies and institutions was established under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan and necessary regulatory measures were taken accordingly. A support programme estimated at about USD 1.47 billion (3.1% of GDP) was drawn up, not only related to anti-crisis measures, but also as a programme of economic expansion, credit expansion and stimulation of aggregate demand. The wide-ranging support package adopted by the Government also serves to ensure the continuation of activities under the SDGs. The support programme focused on the following areas:

Protection of economic activity

- Direct financial support to 300,000 individual entrepreneurs in the affected sectors of the economy;
- Partial payment of salaries to 300,000 employees in the affected sectors of the economy;
- Temporary exemptions from taxes, insurance, and customs payments in the affected sectors of the economy;
- Provision of financial support to vital sections of the passenger transportation sector;
- Issuance of State guarantees and subsidized interest rates on bank loans to businesses operating in pandemic-affected areas;
- Subsidization of part of the interest rate on existing bank loans without State guarantees;

Employment, social welfare support and public health protection:

- Provision of a lump-sum payment equaling the minimum subsistence rate to people who have lost their jobs, the non-formally employed and those from low-income families (600,000 people);
- Creation of 90,000 paid public jobs;
- Payment of tuition fees from the State budget for students from socially vulnerable families;
- Allocation of funds from the State budget to protect the health of the population and to meet the needs of citizens for medical masks;

- Temporary increase of existing discount limits on electricity use, etc.

7. Has your country been able to use the Voluntary National Review (VNR) under the umbrella of the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) to strengthen the integration of human rights in national development efforts? If so, please describe how and provide examples?

During the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2021, the Republic of Azerbaijan presented its next Voluntary National Review (VNR). Among the countries of the region, the Republic of Azerbaijan was the first country to submit the third VNR on the implementation of the UN "Agenda for Sustainable Development until 2030" and one of the 12 countries in the world.

The VNR illustrates the framework under which the Government of Azerbaijan continues to fulfil its commitment to the 2030 Agenda on SDGs. The VNR also reflects best practices, lessons learned, implementation tools, and actions taken to strengthen international partnerships, emerging challenges, the best practices used to address these challenges, and future steps in this regard.

The National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Economy lead the VNR process, through consultation with various stakeholders including Parliament, line ministries, public institutions, NGOs, the private sector and academic institutions. During the reporting period, activities on 17 goals, 88 targets and 119 indicators have been successfully continued, and the alignment of state programmes, action plans, and strategic documents associated with the SDG goals and targets have been successfully implemented.

Third Voluntary National Review of Azerbaijan underlines the importance of the country's obligations undertaken in connection with the SDGs and the timely and adequate implementation of these obligations in line with the principle of "leaving no one behind". Ensuring inclusive and sustainable economic growth, building a peaceful and inclusive society for all is one of the key priorities of the Government of Azerbaijan, and the country has manifestly demonstrated its commitment to a transition to sustainable development and the alignment of State programmes and strategies with the SDGs.

8. Does the national development plan establish a monitoring and accountability mechanism where civil society and other stakeholders, including representatives of vulnerable are included and which offers the possibility for feedback, complaints and contributing inputs into policy-making?

To ensure the monitoring of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to accelerate its implementation in the next decade, the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development conducted two high level meetings with the heads of government agencies and conveyed comprehensive discussions in 2020.

Due to the existing necessity and in order to provide detailed information on SDGs to the general public at both global and national levels and to monitor the state of achievement of SDGs at national level, at the initiative of the State Statistical Committee and in the framework of the "State Programme on the development of the official statistics in the

Republic of Azerbaijan in 2018-2025,” the National Information Portal on Sustainable Development Goals of the Republic of Azerbaijan was set up with the financial support of the UNDP Office in Azerbaijan and placed on the server of the State Statistical Committee at the web address of sdg.azstat.org.

The portal is being used to publish data on SDGs through text, graphical illustrations, tables and videos. To ensure better comprehension and absorption of statistical data, these data can be visualised through graphics and charts making them significantly easy, visible and understandable, several indicators from different years can be contrasted, and the dynamics of change can be described.

The portal is ensuring convenient access to various detailed information on each goal, target and their indicators. This information resource can be used for regular familiarisation with global goals, targets and indicators, national priorities on SDGs, existing legal framework, mechanisms for implementation, state programmes implemented in social, economic and environmental areas, strategies, important measures, reports, publications and scientific research work.

This single national online source of information, which is available in Azerbaijani and English languages, will create a favourable information environment to inform the public, including state agencies, private sector, scientific and educational institutions, civil society institutions, mass media outlets, and regional and international organisations about knowledge, best practices, implemented measures and new developments in the field of SDGs.

9. Is there any other information that you would like to share on integrated approaches to the promotion and protection of human right and the implementation of the 2030 agenda?

On 1 March 2021 the United Nations – Azerbaijan Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2021-2025 was signed.

The Cooperation Framework, fully compliant with the SDGs, is based on the principles of human rights, gender equality, sustainable development, resilience and responsibility, including the priorities of socio-economic development, and will cover the entire Azerbaijan’s territory.

Framework for cooperation is based on the principles of “Leaving No One Behind”, human rights, gender equality, sustainable development, sustainability and accountability, and is in compliance with the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda.

Azerbaijan has made efforts to comply with the following requirements and recommendations in achieving the SDGs:

- The active involvement of the private sector and public institutions in the implementation of SDG-related activities was promoted. Particular attention was paid to raising awareness at all levels, regulating environmental issues, and enhancing private sector’s access to funding for SDGs;

- Special attention was paid to the implementation of awareness-raising activities at all levels and the organization of dialogues with various layers of society (Parliament, civil society, academia and etc.) at the national and regional levels;

- Efforts to further accelerate the development and diversification of the non-oil sector, strengthen innovation activity and export capacity, increase the effectiveness of social services and the green economy were further strengthened during the reporting period;
- Responsive measures have been taken to address the socio-economic challenges posed by COVID-19 by building an effective institutional system and infrastructure, while also working closely with WHO.

The end of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan creates new economic opportunities not only for Azerbaijan, but also for the region as a whole. In this respect, the rehabilitation and reconstruction of its liberated territories will constitute the key dimension of the development strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the coming years. The policy of rehabilitation of the liberated territories and ensuring of sustainable and balanced development of the regions in our country is envisaged in the following priority areas:

- reconstruction of the territories;
- attraction of private investment;
- the demand for local production triggered by the rehabilitation process and economic growth;
- efficient use of natural resources and environmental safety;
- Sustainable and balanced development.

Achievement of peace in the region will make a positive contribution to the implementation of the SDGs, especially SDG 16.

Azərbaycan Respublikası Xarici İşlər Nazirliyi XİN

Xaric olan sənədlər

Qeydiyyat məlumatları

Qeydiyyat nömrəsi	XİN-S/33-10512/02/22	Qeydiyyat tarixi	30.06.2022 16:59:49
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Gönderilən şəxs		Gönderilmə forması	Elektron poçt
İmzalayan şəxs	Mahmud Məmməd-Quliyev Əhməd, Nazir müavini	Sənədin statusu	Poçta göndərilib

Sənədin qısa məzmunu

2030 Gündəliyinin icrasına dair

Qoşma sənəd

Faylın adı	Əsas sənəd	Nüsxə	Vərəq	Tarix
OK_30.06.2022-NDNC SDGs 2030 Agenda questionnaire.docx	Əsas sənəd			30.06.2022 16:32:30
OK_questionnaire 2030 Agenda.docx				30.06.2022 16:47:56

Daxil olan sənəd

Qeydiyyat nömrəsi	Qeydiyyat tarixi	Hara ünvanlanıb	Sənədin məzmunu	Sənədin statusu	İcranın nəticəsi
S/17292/22	16.06.2022			icraatdadır	

Əməliyyat tarixçəsi