**Information on the toxic impacts of climate action in the Republic of Azerbaijan**

Azerbaijan has a commitment in its first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to achieve a quantitative target of a 35% GHG emissions’ reduction by 2030 compared to 1990 level. At COP26 of UNFCCC (November 2021) Azerbaijan announced a conditional target of 40% GHG emission reduction by 2050 compared to 1990 level.

These commitments necessitate gradual technological improvements, green growth transition to reduce the negative envıronmental impacts in various sectors of the economy along with some regulatory changes and public awareness activities. In recent years, some legıslation acts were adopted aiming at energy efficiency rise and expansion of the share of renewables among others.

* The Law on the Use of Renewable Energy Sources in Electricity Generation, was adopted on 31 May 2021 and approved on 12 July 2021.
* Law on the Rational use of energy resources and energy efficiency (Presidential Decree on 20 August 2021) was adopted.
* The Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development was approved on 2 February 2021. The 5th Priority in this document is “a clean environment and country of green growth”.

Azerbaijan strives to bolster our renewable energy sector with a view to diversify the domestic energy mix and contribute to climate goals.A number of strategic partnerships with private sector are being developed on energy transition projects. The investment agreements were signed for the construction of 240 MW wind power (WPP) and 230 MW solar power plants accordingly. These two projects only are planned to save 330 million m3 of natural gas and reduce CO2 emissions by more than 600.000 tons annually. Azerbaijan expands the use of modern, green technologies in the production and transportation of oil and gas products, cuts emissions from electricity generation, implements adaptation actions and other policies. Although no waste is released into the environment during the use of solar cells, emissions of harmful gases occur during the preparation of solar cells, and the impact of these gases on global climate change is thousands of times stronger than carbon dioxide.

In order to ensure technical and environmental safety during passenger transport in the transport sector, the use of compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles in public transport will continue in the coming years. Meanwhile, a number of actions will be taken to modernize and diversify industry, create new priority production areas, industrial parks, strengthen industrial capacity in the regions, and provide opportunities that will ensure the development of industry based on innovation and modern technologies.

In the waste sector, regional waste management centres based on modern technologies will be established to achieve the goal of 100% waste collection in urban areas and 90% in rural areas by 2036. The initiative to establish modern agro-parks in the agricultural sector will create opportunities for the proper use of resources such as modern equipment efficient use of information and communication technologies, cost minimization, environmental protection and efficient use of water and land resources. It is planned to deploy the latest technologies for the collection and use of methane gas in these agricultural parks.

Strategic Roadmaps for the major areas of the national economy included measures to ensure sustainable development of low carbon, which involved the use of the latest technologıes in the implementation of such measures.

“Green Energy Zone” concept launched in the liberated territories of Azerbaijan will allow to move steadily to the cleaner energy mix. Meanwhile, Azerbaijan designated those liberated territories as a “Net Zero Emission Zone” by 2050. However, the illegal exploitation of natural resources and minerals of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the zone of temporary responsibility of the Russian peacekeeping contingent, particularly the Kyzylbulag gold deposit and Demirli copper-molybdenum mines is quite regrettable, since it causes grave environmental concerns, such as pollution of the environment and water reservoirs in place. Furthermore, the information on the toxic mining and other wastes is not provided by the illegal Armenian entrepreneurs, despite the protests of environmentalists launched on December 12, 2022.

All these illegal activities are the flagrant violation of the national and international law. They contradict the Sustainable Development Concept and SDGs promoted by the UN. The illegal exploitation of deposits, damage to the environment, pollution of water basins, and failure to create conditions for the monitoring of the citizens, who are the legal owners of these areas, are altogether contrary to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in the Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) of the United Nations and UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention).

The constant pollution of the Okhchuchay River by industrial discharges in the territory of the Republic of Armenia makes the water resources of the subject river totally useless on the territory of Azerbaijan. Driven by the fact that Okhchuchay is one of the main sources of drinking water, irrigation and other agricultural needs in the region, its unique ecosystem degradation caused emerging food safety problems and human health disorders.

ron 4 times and nickel even 7 times higher than normal. Observations revealed the river's color drastically change from time to time due to pollution (white or acidic-yellow).