

UNIDO

Speech of the Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Mr. Niyazi Safarov

Dear Chairman!

Dear participants of the event!

Ladies and gentlemen!

I would like to greet all of you at the seventeenth session of UNIDO devoted to the inclusive and sustainable industrial development. I would also like to convey my gratitude to the UNIDO and Republic of Austria for the arrangement of this high-level event.

The Republic of Azerbaijan appreciates the role of UNIDO in supporting the development of the industry to ensure the sustainable development deriving from global challenges, expresses its interest in enhancing joint cooperation efforts for the expansion of sustainable and inclusive industrialization policy based on clean technology and development of created innovation subjects.

“Azerbaijan 2020: Vision of the Future” development concept, adopted in accordance with a new development stage characterized by the formation of a multidimensional, productive and innovative economy, providing high welfare and decent employment and raise of human capital, identified directions of innovation-based industrialization policy up to 2020.

The new Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by the United Nations as the continuation of the Millennium Development Goals, combining 17 goals, 169 targets and 231 indicators, have identified global trends in economic, social and environmental development.

All Goals and Objectives set out in the Document on principles of universality and integrated approach have to be coordinated with relevant structures of UN, including UNIDO. Based on these principles, the National Coordinating Council on

Sustainable Development has been established by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan to coordinate the implementation of the responsibilities of the state bodies regarding the obligations arising from the "Transformation of the World: Sustainable Development Agenda till 2030".

In order to effectively organize the Council's activities, the Secretariat of the Council and working groups in 4 working areas: (1) economic development and decent employment, (2) social issues, (3) environmental issues and (4) monitoring evaluation were established, consisting of authorized representatives of state bodies.

The Government of the Republic of the Azerbaijan took an initiative to submit a National Report on 6 Goals, exactly SDG 1,2,3,5,9,14 Goals in accordance with UN thematic plan for this year on and 17th Goal that will be reviewed annually and presented this report at the High-Level Political Forum on July 17, 2017.

The report outlines the nationalization, institutional mechanisms, means and resources of the SDG targets and indicators, the work done on the basis of thematic plan and achievements, participation in the international partnership and future steps.

Dear Chairman,

SDG 9 on "Building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation" aims at the development of infrastructure, industrialization and innovation.

In Azerbaijan industry has entered the new stage of development. 2014 was declared the "Year of Industry" and the "State Program on Industrial Development for 2015-2020 in the Republic of Azerbaijan" was adopted for sustainable industrialization and inclusion.

At the same time, to ensure inclusive growth of the country's economy, Strategic Roadmaps on key sectors of the national economy were approved, covering short, medium and long term periods. The Roadmap defined the development strategy and action plan up to 2020, long-term vision up to 2025 and targets for the period after

2025. This strategic paper reflects the priorities and work plan, based on the SDGs and aiming at sustainable and inclusive industry development in Azerbaijan.

The "Partnership Framework Program", covering the years 2014-2018, signed between UNIDO and the Government of Azerbaijan has particular importance in the usage of UNIDO's scientifically justified methodological approaches and recommendations for establishment of modern industry based on clean technology in Azerbaijan.

In accordance with the provisions of the Framework Program The International Industrial Conference on "Industrialization in the 21st century: main trends in industrial policy, modern approaches and practices" was held in Baku and the project on "Enhancing comprehensive and sustainable industrial development in the New Silk Road Economic Pipeline: using the potential of industrial parks in Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan" was launched. Also, for the development of modern industry the related support has been provided for the exchange of information, learning of best practices and improvement of legislative framework for industrial parks.

In order to push forward the sustainable and inclusive industry in Azerbaijan serious steps were taken in the direction of the establishment of industrial and technology parks, industrial sites. 3 High Technology Parks and industrial parks in the fields of chemicals, recycling, shipbuilding, high technology, light industry, pharmaceuticals were established and measures are taken in order to ensure the functioning of 3 industrial sites, as well as the formation of industrial clusters for the improvement and expansion of the production chain.

The sustainable and inclusive up-to-date industrial infrastructure that enables the efficient use of resources by 2030, and the widest application of clean and environmentally-friendly technologies is being created in accordance with the objectives of Sustainable Development in Azerbaijan.

Establishment of these innovation subjects on the background of increasing role of state support in realization of innovative entrepreneurship initiatives in our country

impetus
gave impetus to the purposeful formation of the National Innovation System as a combination of scientific research institutes, universities and industrial cooperation.

Besides its own economy, Azerbaijan, simultaneously took a crucial steps to develop regional economy. The country thanks to its favorable geographic location and its huge infrastructure investments became a regional trade hub on the historical Silk Way. The biggest regional projects such as Baku-Tbilisi-Jeyhan oil Pipeline, Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline, Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway, South Gas Pipeline are very good examples for Azerbaijan's contribution to develop economy of the region. However, we must note that, occupation of Azerbaijani territories by the Armenian armed forces is one of the main obstacles to mutual cooperation of the regional countries and their economic development. Today 20% of our territories are occupied by Armenia, more than 1 million Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced persons are still deprived of the right to return to their place of residence safely and decently. Occupation of Azerbaijani territories and non-implementation of 4 UN Security Council Resolutions, impose the biggest threat to the security and economic prosperity of the region and hinders the realization of various local and regional scale projects. Following the SDG principle "Leaving no one behind" the solution of this problem is of great importance for Azerbaijan and the whole region.

At the end of my speech, I would like to emphasize the significance of continuing the "Partnership Framework Program" established between the UNIDO and the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2005 for the next term.

Underlining the importance of joint cooperation and efforts of our countries in achieving Sustainable Development Goals I would like to wish everyone successes in future steps.

Thanks a lot for your attention!