The Belt and Road Initiative and SDGs: Potential Linkages in THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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Absolute poverty rate dropped from 49.0% to 4.9%;
Share of the poorest quintile in consumption rose from 12.2% to 15.4%;
Share of underweight children under 5 years of age dropped from 6.8% to 0.6%.

Literacy rate of 15-24 year olds rose to 100%;
Net enrollment rate in primary education rose to 99.8%;
Primary completion rate increased from 92.8% to 100%.

Unemployment rate among women dropped from 12.7% to 5.9%;
Gender Parity Index was 0.99 in primary education, 0.99 in secondary education and 1.07 in tertiary education;
Proportion of seats held by women in the Parliament rose from 10.7% to 16.8%.

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births dropped from 16.4 to 11.0;
Measles immunization rate among 1-year olds equaled 98.1%.
The Agency for Development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises was launched in 2018, and has already started the process of drafting regulatory acts to establish SME Development Centers.

Assuring equal access of all to public and social services, the government established “Sustainable and Operative Social Protection Agency” under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population.

The improvement of understanding of SDGs indicators

PROGRESS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Reducing unemployment to 4% by 2030
- Increase labor productivity;
- Improve inclusiveness of labor market;
- Make an easy access to social benefits and trainings for vulnerable populations.

- FAO’s project for assistance in capacity development on production of some SDGs indicators.
PROGRESS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Azerbaijan was named among the top ten reformers in the World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business Report for 2018, allowing the country to secure 25th place as a favorable investment destination among 190 countries.

On 30 May - 3 June 2017 a mission - MAPS MISSION (Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support Mission) - consisting of 9 experts visited Azerbaijan by support of UN Headquarters.

The central purpose of this visit was providing technical and policy support towards alignment of SDGs to national priorities.
SDG platform 1 – inclusive labour markets, promotion of increase in labour-intensive sectors;

SDG platform 2 — promotion of “greener” development, comparison of “green” economy scenario, sustainable management of land, water resources and agriculture;

SDG platform 3 — improvement of introduction of public of social services, elimination of regional disparities, social protection, early childhood development.
RECOMMENDATIONS OF MAPS GROUP

- Formulation of “Azerbaijan 2030” new development strategy;
- Further alignment of SDGs with national policy documents;
- Establishment of SDG priorities and defining of 3-4 SDG accelerators for Azerbaijan in the light of national development context, development-related results achieved in the last decade, uncompleted matters on MDGs, RIA results;
- Role of private sector and increase of opportunities to involve it in achieving of SDGs in Azerbaijan;
- Building of national SDG Monitoring and Evaluation system, acceleration of adapting of SDGs to the local conditions as well as establishment of statistical basis for drawing up of international reports on SDGs.
UN Food and Agriculture Organization's "Support to strengthening of capacity in implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Azerbaijan" project

**FAO report recommendations further to MAPS Mission:**

- Further strengthening of role of the Council to ensure effective coordination of activities related to implementation of SDGs in Azerbaijan;

- Integration of SDGs into national policy framework on agriculture, food, fishery and forestry and their actualization;

- With the view of implementation of Agenda, improving its link and compliance with policy documents while keeping balance between policy documents directed towards SDG targets;

- Strengthening of consultation and coordination with NCCSD as well as with non-governmental organisations (for example, civil society, academia, private sector) having contacts with international organisations;

- Improvement of capacities of all involved parties in order to cover complex, new, indivisible and intersectoral character of Agenda.
The SDGs stood on display for the four consecutive months in a hectic place of the Baku National Boulevard, which hosts tens of thousands of visitors every day.

Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan and UN Resident Coordinator inaugurated the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) stands in the Baku National Boulevard.
220 proposals from young Azerbaijani entrepreneurs, researchers and scientists focused on solutions to some of the pressing challenges towards the implementation of the SDGs.
Raising Awareness and Engaging Key Stakeholders

Panel Discussion on **the Role of Civil Society in Achieving the SDGs in Azerbaijan**

Panel Discussion entitled **“The SDGs: Women and Development”**
The main goal of Baku Forum on Sustainable Development was to discuss the role of Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support Mission in the process of nationalization of Sustainable Development Goals and the SDGs relevant to the topic of 2019 UN High-Level Political Forum.
RAISING AWARENESS AND ENGAGING KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The first public-private sector dialogue on the SDGs launched in 2019, became a platform for building synergies between the Government and the private sector resulting in the development of Azerbaijan’s first of its kind Roadmap or Action Plan on Public-Private Sector Engagement and Partnership for the SDGs.
INTEGRATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The initial draft developed on goals, targets and relevant indicators considered as priorities for Azerbaijan on SDG has been improved by analysis and generalization done jointly by the State Statistical Committee in the light of relevant comments of concerned authorities.
### INTEGRATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Out of 88 targets deemed as priority for Azerbaijan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic-Social</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDG</td>
<td>Aligned Targets</td>
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<td>-----------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Poverty</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Hunger</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Health</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>4. Education</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Gender</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Water</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Energy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Growth and Jobs</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Infrastructure and industrialization</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Inequality</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Cities</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. SCP</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Climate change</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Oceans</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Lands</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Inclusive governance</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Partnership</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ALIGNMENT OF SDGS WITH COUNTRY’S DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Sectoral percentages of targets selected for SDGs

- People: 47.28%
- Prosperity: 45.27%
- Planet: 45.27%
- Peace: 12.7%
- Partnership: 19.11%
PROGRAMES AND STRATEGIES WITH THE BEST COVERAGE ACROSS THE SDGs

Azerbaijan 2020: Look into the Future” Concept of Development_19 targets

Strategic Road Map for the manufacture and processing of agricultural products in the Republic of Azerbaijan_19 targets

State Program on Socio-Economic Development of Regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2014-2018_12 targets


State Program on Azerbaijani Youth in 2017-2021_9 targets

State Program on Maternal and Child Health Improvement for 2014-2020_6 targets

"National Strategy for the Protection and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2017-2020"_6 targets

"State Program for Industrial Development in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2015-2020"_5 targets

National Action Program on increasing the effectiveness of human rights and freedoms_5 targets
### MAIN APPROACH: Links between BRI and SDGs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BRI Priority</th>
<th>SDGs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facilities Connectivity</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Decent Work and Economic Growth" /> <img src="image2" alt="Industry Innovation and Infrastructure" /> <img src="image3" alt="Sustainable Cities and Communities" /> <img src="image4" alt="Partnerships for the Goals" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unimpeded Trade</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Decent Work and Economic Growth" /> <img src="image2" alt="Industry Innovation and Infrastructure" /> <img src="image4" alt="Partnerships for the Goals" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People-to-people Bond</td>
<td><img src="image5" alt="Quality Education" /> <img src="image1" alt="Decent Work and Economic Growth" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Integration</td>
<td><img src="image6" alt="No Poverty" /> <img src="image3" alt="Sustainable Cities and Communities" /> <img src="image7" alt="Climate Action" /> <img src="image8" alt="Life on Land" /> <img src="image4" alt="Partnerships for the Goals" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Coordination</td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Partnerships for the Goals" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In April, 2019 representatives of various Azerbaijani companies who accompanied his delegation signed ten new cooperation agreements with their Chinese counterparts.

In total, the signed deals are reportedly worth $821 million and include plans to construct the Chemical-Industrial Park to produce automobile tires, a 300 hectare greenhouse complex in Azerbaijan’s Kurdamir region, as well as agro-industrial development parks in Guba, Goychay and Khachmaz districts.

The two sides signed agreements on establishing an Asian-European telecommunications corridor within the framework of the Azerbaijan Digital Hub program, coordinating the annual transit of 2,500 containers across Azerbaijan via the Trans-Caspian transport corridor, and exporting Azerbaijani wine to China.
Azerbaijan, which is one of the important countries of the historical Silk Road, located in the centre of Eurasia, at the junction of East and West, today is actively involved in the creation of international trade corridors, based on its historical traditions;

The Strategic Road Map for the Development of Logistics and Trade;

In 2015, signed a MOU on joint encouragement of the establishment of the Silk Road Economic Belt, which is an integral part of the “One Belt, One Road” strategy;
BRI-SDGs: FACILITIES CONNECTIVITIES

Coordinating Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Transit Freight

Ensuring development of transport infrastructure, transportation management systems and increase efficiency in the field of transit freight carried out via railways, marine transport, marine ports and marine terminals of the country;
It provides easy access to a wide logistics network due to its location in the central region of Europe - Central Asia - Far East corridor and Baltic - Russia - Persian Gulf corridor.

The railway line connection is provided by Baku-Tbilisi-Kars, Iran Astara-Baku, Russia Lie-Alat railway routes

- The Baku cargo terminal;
- Six international airports;
- The Alat trade port (free economic zone);
- The cargo fleet in the Caspian Sea;
- The Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway commissioned in 2017;
- Absheron logistics Centre;
BRI-SDGs: UNIMPEDED TRADE

Total export (2018): 19,458,632.5 USD

Total import (2018): 11,464,970.1 USD
BRI-SDGs: UNIMPEDED TRADE

Total export (2018): 19,458,632.5 USD

Total import (2018): 11,464,970.1 USD
### BRI-SDGs: PEOPLE TO PEOPLE BOND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of arrived and departured tourists</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of received and dispatched tourists, person</td>
<td>63,543</td>
<td>77,587</td>
<td>83,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>including:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>received</td>
<td>8,949</td>
<td>13,455</td>
<td>12,777</td>
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<tr>
<td>dispatched</td>
<td>54,594</td>
<td>64,132</td>
<td>70,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of received and dispatched tour-days, person-day</td>
<td>370,520</td>
<td>487,446</td>
<td>549,037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>including:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>received</td>
<td>33,054</td>
<td>65,804</td>
<td>60,645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dispatched</td>
<td>337,466</td>
<td>421,642</td>
<td>488,392</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compared from 2018 to 2017, the number of tourists from India increased by 2.7 times, Israel - by 2.6 times, Egypt, Turkmenistan and South Korea - by 1.7 times and from China - by 1.5 times.

Simplification of visa regime also plays a major role in the development of tourism in Azerbaijan. Currently, citizens of a number of countries get visas right at the Azerbaijani airports, while other tourists can visit the country by getting online tourist visas.
The Azerbaijani Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Education of China signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of education in 2012.

The agreement provides cooperation in education, teacher and student exchanges and development of mutual relations between the institutions.
There are 260 billion of investments and half of them are foreign investments in Azerbaijan.

ADB Assistance to Azerbaijan

> $5 billion cumulative lending, grant, and technical assistance commitments (82 projects as of 1 September 2019)

- Energy: $1.9 billion
- Transport: $1.4 billion
- Public Sector Management: $1.0 billion
- Water and Other Urban Infrastructure and Services: $583 million
- Finance: $214 million
- Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development: $1.2 billion
- Health: $0.6 billion

Source: ADB


**Strategic Pillar 1**
Boosting Private Sector Development

Supports ADB’s operational priority to address remaining poverty and reduce inequalities by generating quality jobs

**Strategic Pillar 2**
Raising Public Sector Efficiency

Supports ADB’s operational priority to strengthen governance and institutional capacity

**Strategic Pillar 3**
Improving Infrastructure and Strengthening Human Capital

Supports ADB’s operational priorities to make cities more livable, foster regional cooperation and integration, and address remaining poverty and reduce inequalities by improving education and training
BRI-SDGs: FINANCIAL INTEGRATION

There are 260 billion of investments and half of them are foreign investments in Azerbaijan.

Results of ADB-Assisted Projects and Programs

- 485,000 people received reliable drinking water for the first time
- 100,000 households in 13 regions and 3 cities received reliable electricity supply
- 240,000 people protected from the effects of flooding
- 325 kilometers new and upgraded highways and rural roads built

Source: ADB


Strategic Pillar 1
Boosting Private Sector Development
Supports ADB’s operational priority to address remaining poverty and reduce inequalities by generating quality jobs

Strategic Pillar 2
Raising Public Sector Efficiency
Supports ADB’s operational priority to strengthen governance and institutional capacity

Strategic Pillar 3
Improving Infrastructure and Strengthening Human Capital
Supports ADB’s operational priorities to make cities more livable, foster regional cooperation and integration, and address remaining poverty and reduce inequalities by improving education and training
Priority 2.3 of the Strategic Road Map for the Development of Logistics and Trade in the Republic of Azerbaijan envisages provision of logistic services in multimodal operations and high value container transportations, as well as establishment of logistics and trade centers in Baku and different parts of the country in order to increase the transit trade.

In this connection, the work is underway to set up 4 more logistics centers in Azerbaijan by 2020.
THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!