

## The VNR in a Nutshell – National Strategies for SDGs.

### Azerbaijan

Capital	Baku
Population	9,810,000
Area (in sq.km)	86,600
Languages	Azerbaijani
Poverty rate	Extreme poverty 0,1%, absolute poverty 4.9% (2015)
Per capita income	7990.8
International Tourist Arrivals (2015)	2,006,000



Sources: UNDP, VNR, UNWTO

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The recognition of the role of tourism in sustainable development and the emphasis placed in the SDGs on the development of public policies for sustainable tourism is a landmark breakthrough that provides a unique opportunity for all governments to create a sound and favourable policy foundation.

The first two years of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda have shown that countries are making headway in aligning national strategies, adapting institutional frameworks and adjusting policies to realize the SDGs.

The countries' efforts have been reported in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), presented by UN Member States during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2016 and 2017.

**Title of VNR:** Azerbaijan – 2030: From the Millennium Development Goals towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Voluntary National Review of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the first steps in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

**Presenter for VNR:** Ali Ahmadov, Deputy Prime Minister

#### **National Thematic Focus:**

No specific themes mentioned but focuses on

- SDG 1 – No poverty,
- SDG 2 – Zero hunger
- SDG 3 – Good health and well-being
- SDG 5 – Gender Equality
- SDG 9 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- SDG 14 – Life below water
- SDG 17 – Partnerships for the goal

#### **Institutional Arrangement:**

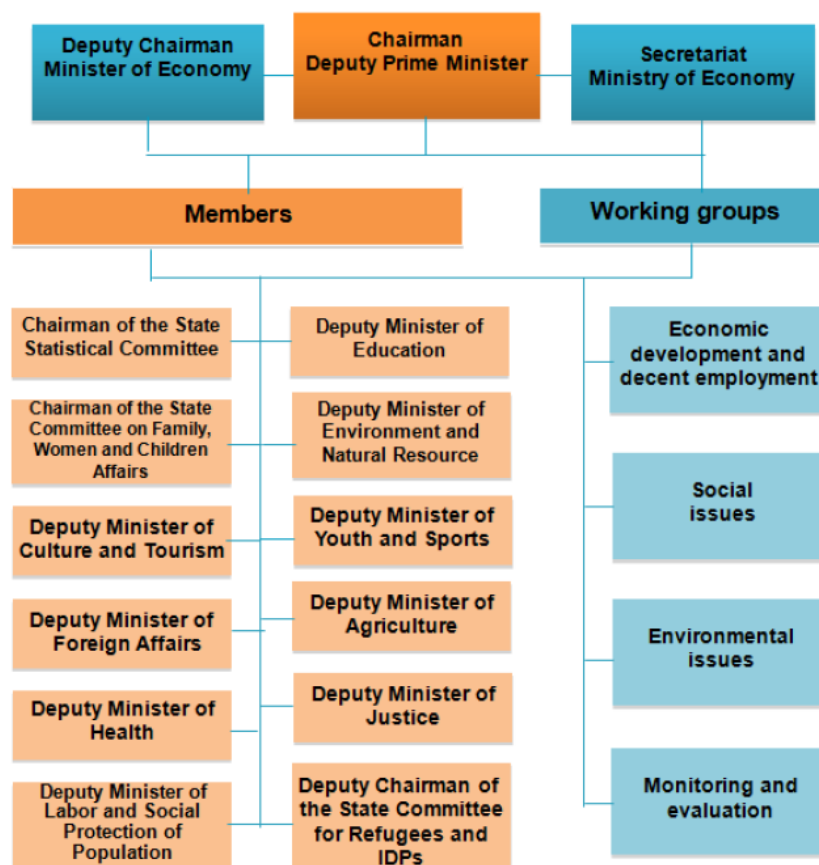
Lead and coordination entity: The National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development (NCCSD) is tasked with identification of national priorities, alignment of national programmes with the SDGs, and cooperation with local and foreign experts and organizations. It submits annual progress reports to the President of Azerbaijan. It was established by Decree of the President in October 2016.

The NCCSD is organized as follows:

- Chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, with the Minister of Economy as Deputy Chairman.
- Comprised of 14 members representing various government agencies, including the Chairman of the State Statistical Committee, the Chairman of the State Committee on Family, Women, and Children Affairs, the Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism, the Deputy Minister of Health, the Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Population, the Deputy Minister of Education, the Deputy Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, the Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, the Deputy Minister of Justice, and the Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Refugees and IDPs.
- Aided by a Secretariat in the Ministry of Economy.

Implementation of the SDGs: The NCCSD established four working groups, namely 1) Economic development and decent employment, 2) Social issues, 3) Environmental issues, and 4) **Monitoring and evaluation**. Each working group comprises representatives from relevant State bodies.

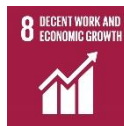
The National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan



#### SDG Incorporation to National Framework:

- All Government development plans and programs (both ongoing and those yet to be formulated) during the period until 2030 will be revised, harmonized and aligned to support achievement of nationalized SDGs.
- Azerbaijan developed a Strategic vision for the period until 2020 in line with some SDGs targets and a long-term vision for the period until 2025: to achieve a strengthened competitiveness by adding more value in the atmosphere of fruitful cooperation of all parties of the Azerbaijani economy that has embarked on the path of sustainable development. (p. 24 sustainable development issues in long-term vision of country's development prospects)

- Measures are being taken to nationalize global SDGs and related targets and indicators, to include them in the country's development agenda, to organize the implementation, to establish monitoring, evaluation and reporting system, to attract financial resources including local and foreign investment, to develop an action plan for the elimination of gaps and etc. (p. 31 implementation tools and resources)
- To support the NCCSD in both nationalization of SDGs and further implementation of respective programs and plans the government established four Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) – Economic Growth and Decent Jobs, Social Development, Environmental Issues, Monitoring and Evaluation. (p. 68 conclusions)



### **Tourism Ministry /NTA portfolio:**

[Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan](#)

### **Tourism and SDG in Azerbaijan**

#### **Opportunities**

- **Economic Development**
- **Tourism Diversification**

Specialized tourism industry is part of Azerbaijan's approved 12 strategic roadmaps for the development of the national economy and is one of the 11 priority sectors. The other sector include:

- agricultural production and processing;
- consumer goods production at the level of SMEs;
- heavy industry and mechanical engineering; logistics and trade;
- provision of affordable housing;
- vocational education and training;
- financial services;
- telecommunications and information technologies, u
- tilities (electricity and heating energy, water and gas))

### **Resources and Useful Links**

[Azerbaijan VNR 2017](#)