Azerbaijan presents its second voluntary national review at High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

15 July 2019: Azerbaijan became the first country in the region and Commonwealth of Independent States area to submit its second Voluntary National Review (VNR) regarding the progress of SDGs at High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) at the UN headquarters in New York, USA. Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan, Chair of the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development Ali Ahmadov highlighted the main messages for the second VNR of Azerbaijan on SDGs in the Forum. Mr. Ali Ahmadov mentioned the fulfillment of SDG-related commitments as one of the crucial components of Azerbaijan’s state policy and stressed on the role of building opportunities for inclusive and sustainable economic growth for all as a priority for Azerbaijan. The delegation held bilateral meetings with a number of UN senior representatives, as well as delegations of other member states.

UN officials met with Azerbaijan’s Deputy PM Ali Ahmadov

16-18 July 2019: UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed met with Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Chairman of the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development, Ali Ahmadov. During the meeting, the sides discussed Azerbaijan’s progress on the SDGs implementation. Amina Mohammed highly appreciated the creation of a high-level National Coordination Council for a comprehensive coordination and implementation of the tasks related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Azerbaijan and submission of the second Voluntary National Report.

Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Achim Steiner and Assistant Administrator and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (RBEC) Mirjana Spoljaric Egger met with Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan, Chair of the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development, Ali Ahmadov. The sides discussed the ways of expanding Azerbaijan’s bilateral cooperation with UNDP and increasing the efficiency of the jointly implemented projects.
Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Development Coordination Office, Robert Piper applauded the socio-economic reforms implemented in Azerbaijan as he met with the country’s Deputy Prime Minister, Chair of the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development, Ali Ahmadov in New York.

The sides discussed the importance of close collaboration and engaging all the interested parties in the implementation of the SDGs. Mr. Piper also affirmed the UN’s readiness to support Azerbaijan in peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. He also stressed the opportunity of implementing joint projects with the government of Azerbaijan to ensure IDPs’ labour market integration and employment.

UN Country Team in Azerbaijan visits IDP settlement in Tartar district

9 July 2019: On the initiative of the State Committee for Affairs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Azerbaijan visited the Shikharkh village of Tartar district.

The UNCT members participated at the event entitled ‘A day with IDPs: leaving no one behind’, which took place at a newly-built settlement for internally displaced people. The UN Resident Coordinator Ghulam M. Isaczai mentioned in his opening speech regarding the socio-economic programmes and projects implemented or funded by the UN agencies for the benefit of IDPs.

Following the event, the UNCT members and government representatives visited the Bayimsarov village of Tartar district and met with IDPs. The UN Youth Advisory Council, in turn, conducted a training course on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for IDP youth. Read more

New SDGs portal to strengthen national data systems in Azerbaijan

2 July 2019: The United Nations Development Programme and the State Committee on Statistics of Azerbaijan launched the national information portal on sustainable development goals (SDGs) recognising the crucial importance of strengthening the statistical capacity in the country.

The new portal introduces an interactive dashboard that collects consolidated data on the SDGs from a number of designated government institutions. To facilitate greater awareness of the SDGs-related data sources and to help the general public use to easily understand complex statistical data, the portal offers an impressive array of data visualisation tools and technics. It also will be used to publish data on sustainable development through textual and graphical illustrations, maps, charts, diagrams, tables and videos. The new portal responds to a growing demand for national and international data to track and monitor the progress towards the implementation of the SDGs. It allows users to see the course of the SDGs implementation process in Azerbaijan. The portal is available in Azerbaijani and English languages. Read more

UNDP and EU open new industrial workshop at Vocational Education and Training School in Ganja

10 July 2019: The European Union (EU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) opened their first industrial workshop in Ganja as part of the EU-funded project to support the establishment of the Regional Industrial Vocational Education and Training (VET) Competence Centre in Ganja.

The project seeks to improve the quality of education and specifically, to bolster the attractiveness of vocational education in Ganja and surrounding regions while also boosting student enrollment and participation, as well as to align the vocational education system of these regions with demand-side requirements of industry. The Ganja Regional Centre is appointed with world-class industrial and technical training equipment for vocational education programmes across six major fields of work. Read more
FAO launches a new project to improve animal disease surveillance in Azerbaijan

17 July 2019: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launches a new project in Azerbaijan on the improvement of national capacity to conduct disease surveillance including veterinary diagnostics. The project aims to improve the national capacity in Azerbaijan for early detection, diagnosis and response to important endemic and exotic transboundary animal diseases.

The main government counterparts of the project are Azerbaijan Food Safety Agency, National Reference Laboratory, Regional Testing Laboratories and Agrarian Services Agency under the Ministry of Agriculture. The project will overall contribute to improving animal and public health, food safety and agricultural competitiveness in the country.

Within the project, the staff of National Reference Laboratory and six Regional Testing Laboratories, as well as private and public veterinarians will be trained by internationally and locally recruited consultants on sampling collection and shipment, risk-based surveillance and outbreak investigation. Read more

OHCHR organises training sessions for civil society activists and the members of legal community

17 July 2019: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Azerbaijan delivered ten training sessions for civil society activists and members of the legal community from Baku and several districts of Azerbaijan from 17 to 26 July.

The training sessions aimed at increasing knowledge of participants on the UN human rights system and mechanisms, as well as human rights monitoring and alternative reports writing. Over 90 representatives of CSOs and the legal community also received information on the work of UN human rights mechanisms and their mandates, besides legal analysis of recent Concluding Observations related to Azerbaijan.

The trainings were organised within the framework of the EU-funded project on enhancing the capacity of national actors in promoting and effectively protecting human rights. The agency also provided the workshop participants with the recent OHCHR compilations of General Comments issued by a number of UN Treaty Bodies translated into Azerbaijani language.

UNICEF holds trainings on inclusive education for teacher trainers

23 July 2019: UNICEF held trainings for teachers to further train their colleagues on inclusive education. The training programme was delivered in the Institute of Professional Development of Education Workers within the framework of the project of expanding inclusive education in Azerbaijan, funded by the European Union.

Some 50 experienced teachers were involved in training programme to get acquainted with the teaching methods on inclusive education and to provide a training course for primary school teachers on the next round.

The programme covered the topics on the social model of disability, the role and significance of values in inclusive education, strategies for elimination of challenges on education access of children from vulnerable groups; child-centred pedagogy, universal learning design, inclusive lesson planning and assessment; collaborative approach in implementation of inclusive education, family and children support plans, also teacher-parent-community cooperation in the field. The project aims to train 10,000 primary school teachers till June 2020 to develop programmes on delivery of inclusive classes. Trainings are planned to be held in Baku, Ganja, Sumgait, Absheron, Sheki, Guba, Gazakh and Aghjabadi.

WHO supports Azerbaijan in transforming its health system

1 August 2019: WHO Country Office in Azerbaijan organised a roundtable discussion on the outcomes of a four-day WHO mission, which aimed to support the government of Azerbaijan in their health transformation efforts. The mission experts looked specifically at the future of the primary health care system in order to modernise and strengthen it.

The event brought together representatives from the Ministry of Health, State Agency on Mandatory Health Insurance, Medical University, Public Health and Reforms Centre, Baku Health Department, Postgraduate Medical Institute, Milli Majlis (Parliament), UN agencies, as well as embassies and international organisations. Next steps are to work on a pilot project of primary healthcare strengthening to build the best model for Azerbaijan. Read more
UNFPA organises summer camp to address gender-biased sex selection

5 August 2019: UNFPA organised a five-day summer camp for youth called “For a better future built on equal opportunities”, funded by the European Union and supported by Azerbaijan Youth Foundation in Shamakhy. The summer camp brought together about 40 boys and girls aged 16-22 from Baku and several districts of the country from 29 July to 3 August 2019. Through training sessions focusing on promotion of the value of a girl child, the camp aimed to contribute to preventive efforts addressing gender inequalities and the phenomenon of gender-biased sex selection.

To discuss gender stereotypes prevailing in the society, as well as to motivate youth for changes, successful young women engaged in social entrepreneurship and sports were invited to share their success stories with the attendees of the camp. During the camp sessions, the participants also got information about the role of women empowerment in achieving the SDGs. Read more

IOM improves vocational skills of youth in districts


The trainings covering the period of June-September is hold within the framework of the USAID/Azerbaijan Public Action for Resilience (PAR) Activity. The participants are trained per their choice, as IOM offers two training modules. Module-1 is a Professional Accounting and Tax Specialist training programme and module-2 is ECDL training (the European Computer Driving License). In addition, both modules include English language, as well as CV writing, job recruitment and interview skills trainings. 106 young people were selected for vocational skills trainings among those who applied from Guba-Gusar-Khachmaz, Shaki-Balakan-Zagatala and Masalli-Lankaran-Astara districts in accordance with the project geographical coverage.

FAO works towards consolidating fragmented land in Azerbaijan

29 August 2019: FAO held the final workshop on the results of a three-year technical assistance project on land consolidation. The event brought together participants from the Ministry of Agriculture, the State Committee on Property Issues, the Azerbaijan Amelioration and Water Management Open Joint-Stock Company, local authorities and farmers.

During the event, experts highlighted activities within the project, such as community workshops to raise awareness on the benefits of land consolidation and drafting a community development plan in close collaboration with local partners. The plan focuses on the necessity of improved agricultural infrastructure in the village, including of the introduction of the irrigation scheme. In addition, the need for better passage over the main canal was identified and constructed with the support of FAO. Read more

UN-Azerbaijan partnership in light of recent reforms discussed on ARB 24 TV

8 July 2019: UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Ghulam Isaczai was a guest of the “Müşahibə vaxtı” programme at ARB 24 TV and answered questions on UN-Azerbaijan partnership, including the main areas of cooperating and the ongoing activities.

Mr. Isaczai also touched upon the importance of the high-profile event “Public Services Forum” hosted by Azerbaijan Government in cooperation with UN and spoke about the reforms of the UN Development System and its influences on UN’s work on a national, regional and global level.

Watch here
UN Resident Coordinator spoke at various events

5 July 2019: UN Resident Coordinator Ghulam M. Isaczai discussed global governance issues with youth during the ADA University Alumni Forum dedicated to the topic of “Industry 4.0. Going Digital”.

The forum was mainly concentrated on global governance and digitalisation, diplomacy in the age of information technology, human capital enhancement, digital economy and society.

22 August 2019: Speaking at the XIX International Youth Forum in Baku dedicated to the development of voluntary blood donorship among youth in Azerbaijan, UN Resident Coordinator underlined importance of such platforms to raise awareness about the benefits of voluntary donation and to dispel negative perception and myths about it. Mr. Isaczai encouraged young participants of the forum to play active role in all areas of life, including healthcare, and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

UN Refugee Agency in Azerbaijan shares its latest factsheet

August 2019: Electronic factsheet produced by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Azerbaijan includes information about the main activities of the UN Refugee Agency in Azerbaijan, as well as some statistics on refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons and stateless people. It covers the activities in the field of protection, education, health, Cash Based Interventions (CBIs), community empowerment and self-reliance, durable solutions, as well as external/donor relations. Download here

UNFPA summer camp participants demonstrate current gender issues through social theatre plays. Shamakhy, 5 August 2019. Photo/ UNFPA Azerbaijan

UN Country Team in Azerbaijan visits IDP settlement in Tartar district, Azerbaijan, Tartar, 9 July 2019. Photo/ UNDGC Azerbaijan