



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK
22-24
MARCH
2023

SIDE EVENT PROGRAMME

“REFORMS, STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT, AND INNOVATION IN WATER SECTOR TO ACCELERATE SDG ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS IN AZERBAIJAN”

Date and time: 24 March 2023: 08:00-09:15 am NY time zone
16:00-17:15 Baku time zone

Venue: United Nations Headquarters, Conference room 9

Concept Note

Azerbaijan has been transforming its economy with specific emphasis on achieving its national, social, economic, and environmental goals which are harmonized with its commitment to the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Tackling water scarcity and managing water resources in a sustainable manner is a major pillar in these efforts. Based on the realization of the need to significantly accelerate progress towards its water-related targets, a number of key actions are either in progress or being taken to make the best use of the synergies involved and manage the trade-offs that exist across the social and economic sectors.

This is of particular importance considering the fact that water is linked to the achievement (or failure) in dealing with issues related to climate change, food security, energy security, a healthy environment, and public health, among others. These actions aim to engage all stakeholders, state and non-state, towards an inclusive socioeconomic development within which water is sustainably governed, managed, and protected, contributes to the nation's development objectives, and is given due consideration in plans, programs, and actions in other sectors.

The side event will communicate to the stakeholders of the UN 2023 Water Conference and development partners the key actions the Government of Azerbaijan is taking and provide an opportunity for the involved stakeholders to demonstrate their commitment and showcase expected and early results.

Lead organization:

Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Organizing Partners:

Public: Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ministry of Economy, Amelioration and Water Farm OSJC.

International organizations: FAO-Azerbaijan, IOM-Azerbaijan.

Academia: Arizona State University.



List of Speakers



Mr Mukhtar Babayev
Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources
of the Republic of Azerbaijan



Mr Lifeng Li
Director, FAO Land and Water
Division



Mr Manuel Marques Pereira
Head of Migration, Environment &
Climate Change Division of the Department of Peace
and Development Coordination, IOM HQ



Mr Rafiq Verdiyev
Deputy Head of National Hydrometeorological
Service under the Ministry of Ecology and Natural
Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan



Mr Movsum Dadashev
Director of Amelioration
Scientific Research Institute



Mr Huseyn Huseynov
Head of the Department of Sustainable Development
and Social Policy of the Ministry of Economy,
Secretary of National Coordination Council on
Sustainable Development of Azerbaijan Republic



Mr Olcay Unver
Professor of Practice,
Arizona State University



AGENDA

Time

- 08:00-08:15 **Welcome Addresses**
- Mr Mukhtar Babayev**, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Mr Lifeng Li, Director, FAO Land and Water Division
Mr Manuel Marques Pereira, Head of Migration, Environment & Climate Change Division of the Department of Peace and Development Coordination, IOM HQ
- 08:15-08:25 **“SDG achievements and challenges in Azerbaijan”**,
Mr Huseyn Huseynov, Head of the Department of Sustainable Development and Social Policy of the Ministry of Economy, Secretary of National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development of Azerbaijan Republic
- 08:25-08:35 **“The current status of Implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management(IWRM) in Azerbaijan”**,
Mr Rafiq Verdiyev, Deputy head of National Hydrometeorological Service
- 08:35-08:45 **“How Azerbaijan links sustainable remediation and water use to the progress on achieving SDGs”**,
Mr Movsum Dadashev, Director of Amelioration Scientific Research Institute
- 08:45-08:55 **“Stakeholder engagement in policy, governance and management of water in Azerbaijan: issues, opportunities, and prospects”**,
Mr Olcay Unver, Professor of Practice, Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering, Polytechnic School, Environmental and Resource Management Program, and Senior Global Futures Scientist, Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory, Arizona State University
- 08:55-09:10 Q&A Session
- 09:10- 09:15 Concluding Statement



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