

CONCEPT NOTE

Impact Dialogue: Baku Sustainable Business Assembly 2026

The Closing Leadership Dialogue of the Baku Corporate Sustainability Forum

Official Session of the UNFCCC Climate Week 4

Date: 9 September 2026

Venue: Baku Congress Centre, Baku, Azerbaijan

Time: 14:00 – 15:30

Duration: 90 minutes

Moderator: Samir Mammadov

Co-organized by:

- UN Global Compact Network Azerbaijan
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- COP29 Climate High-Level Champion

Background

Baku Corporate Sustainability Forum, held during Baku Climate Action Week 2026 in parallel with UNFCCC Climate Week 4 convenes business leaders, financial institutions, policymakers, and international partners to explore practical pathways for accelerating corporate climate action across five strategic sectors:

Banking and Finance, Cement and Construction, Energy, Transportation, Telecommunications and Retail and Distribution.

Through a series of executive panel discussions, roundtables and keynotes, the Forum identifies sector-specific challenges, opportunities, partnerships, and recommendations that strengthen the role of the private sector in delivering climate ambition and supporting sustainable economic growth in Azerbaijan and the wider region.

The Impact Dialogue: Baku Sustainable Business Assembly will serve as the Forum's culminating leadership dialogue and will be held as an **official session of the UNFCCC Climate Week 4**. Bringing together senior executives, government leaders, international organizations, investors, and development partners, the session will elevate the outcomes of the preceding sector discussions into a strategic conversation on the future of corporate sustainability, competitiveness, and climate leadership.

Rather than introducing new topics, the Business Assembly will synthesize the Forum's trends, identify cross-sector priorities, and explore how businesses can collectively accelerate implementation, strengthen regional cooperation, and contribute to national and global climate objectives.



Objectives

The Impact Dialogue and Business Assembly aims to:

- A consolidated set of cross-sector business priorities supporting implementation of NDC 3.0.
- Identification of practical opportunities for business, government and finance to accelerate implementation, with particular attention to SMEs.
- Identification of investment, technology, capacity-building and policy gaps requiring collective action.
- Identification of scalable solutions aligned with the vision and plans for the Global Climate Action Agenda 2026–2030 and COP31 implementation priorities.
- New opportunities for public-private, financial and regional partnerships across Azerbaijan and neighboring markets.
- A forward-looking Baku Business Agenda to guide continued collaboration through Baku Climate Action Week and future editions of the Corporate Sustainability Forum.
- Stronger integration of private-sector implementation and solutions into the wider UNFCCC Climate Week 4 dialogue.

Format

Duration: 90 minutes

Opening Remarks

- COP29 Climate High-Level Champion
- Special Advisor to the COP31 Climate High-Level Champion
- UN Global Compact Network Azerbaijan
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Presentation of Forum Outcomes

A concise presentation by the Forum rapporteurs summarizing the principal findings, recommendations, and partnership opportunities from each of the five sector roundtables.

Leadership Dialogue

A moderated discussion among senior executives representing key sectors of the economy, together with government representatives, investors, solution providers and international organizations.

The discussion will focus on translating sector-specific insights into a shared vision for regional corporate sustainability leadership and implementation.

Audience Interaction

Questions and remarks from participants attending the Forum and UNFCCC Climate Week 4.

Closing Reflections

Presentation of key messages and future vision for continued collaboration.

Guiding Questions

- What are the most significant opportunities for businesses to accelerate climate action while enhancing long-term competitiveness? Is there really a business case?
- What common barriers emerged across sectors, and what are existing solutions that address them through collaboration?
- How can governments and businesses work together to create enabling policy and investment environments?
- What role can regional cooperation play in advancing corporate sustainability across the South Caucasus, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Türkiye?
- What domains require additional push and where can Baku Climate Action Week, the Corporate Sustainability Forum and the broader UNFCCC process provide policy or practice value?

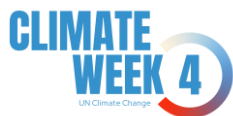
Expected Outcomes

- Consolidated recommendations from the Baku Corporate Sustainability Forum.
- Agreement on a set of cross-sector priorities for advancing corporate sustainability.
- Identification of new public-private and regional partnership opportunities and relevant Plans to Accelerate Solution(s) (PASes) under the Global Climate Action Agenda as practical pathways to implementation at scale.
- Strengthened visibility of private sector leadership, opportunities and solutions in support of UNFCCC Climate Week 4 and multilateral climate process.
- Reinforcement of Baku Climate Action Week as an annual platform for corporate sustainability dialogue and implementation.
- A shared vision for continued collaboration on future editions of Baku Climate Action Week.

Participants

Approximately 35-45 participants, including:

- CEOs and senior executives from leading Azerbaijani and regional corporations
- Members of the UN Global Compact Network Azerbaijan
- International businesses from Türkiye, Georgia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia
- Government representatives
- Development finance institutions
- Investors
- UN agencies
- Climate experts
- Business associations
- Academia and civil society



Position within Baku Climate Action Week and UNFCCC Climate Week 4

As the **culminating leadership dialogue** of the Baku Corporate Sustainability Forum, this session provides the bridge between sector-specific discussions and the broader climate agenda of UNFCCC Climate Week 4. It elevates practical recommendations into strategic priorities, ensuring that the voices of the private sector are integrated into regional climate discussions and that the Forum concludes with a clear, forward-looking vision for corporate sustainability in Azerbaijan and beyond.

Session Flow

14:00–14:10 | Opening and Leadership Framing /10 min/

Brief opening remarks by COP 29 High-Level Champion, COP 31 Climate High-Level Champion, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and UN Global Compact, framing the Assembly around the transition from commitments to implementation and the role of business in delivering regional climate action.

Moderator's Opening Remarks 2 min

Samir Mammadov

Azerbaijan Country Representative, United Nations Global Compact

Keynote Framing 8 min

Mr. Mukhtar Babayev

Special Representative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan for Climate, COP 29 President

Mr. Chris Mensah

Special Advisor to the COP 31 Climate High-Level Champion

Ms. Nigar Arpadarai

COP 29 High-Level Champion, Member of Azerbaijani Parliament

Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin

Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

14:10–14:25 | Leadership Dialogue: From Ambition to Implementation /15 min/

1. The Business Case — 5 min - What will make climate action a source of competitiveness, resilience and growth for businesses?

Mr. Dmytro Shlapachenko

United Nations in Azerbaijan

- energy transition and efficiency;
- sustainable finance and investment;
- green industrial transformation;
- technology and innovation;
- climate-related risks and supply chains;

[GCAA: Transitioning Energy, Industry and Transport; Unleashing Enablers and Accelerators — Finance, Technology and Capacity-Building; COP31: Clean Energy Transition; Green Industrialization]

2. Enabling Implementation — 5 min - What needs to change in policy, finance and markets for companies— to implement NDC-aligned action at scale?

Mr. Savaş Uzan (TBC)

Azersun Holding

- access to sustainable and transition finance;
- climate-integrated procurement and investment;
- regulation, standards, carbon accounting and disclosure;
- technology transfer and capacity-building;
- public-private partnerships;
- creating practical pathways for SMEs to participate in decarbonization and resilient value chains. The role of SMEs and climate-proofing SMEs in the transition.

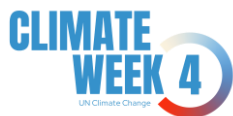
[NDC 3.0; GCAA: Finance, Technology and Capacity-Building; COP31: Climate Finance; Climate Implementation Bridge]

3. Scaling Solutions Across Sectors and Borders — 5 min - Where can business move from individual corporate action to scalable solutions and regional cooperation?

Ms. Teiba Guliyeva (TBC)

Bank Societe Generale

- resilient and sustainable buildings and infrastructure;
- clean and low-emission mobility;
- circular economy and zero waste;
- sustainable food and agricultural value chains;
- water and climate resilience;
- digital technologies and AI;



- nature and biodiversity; and
- opportunities for cooperation across **Azerbaijan, Türkiye, Georgia, Central Asia and Eastern Europe.**

14:25–14:50 | From Sector Dialogue to National and Regional Priorities — 25 min

Forum rapporteurs present a concise synthesis of the industry sectors:

Energy: Mr. Afghan Isayev, Vice President, SOCAR

Banking & Finance: Mr. Anar Hasanov, CEO, Yelo

Cement & Construction: Mr. Henning Sasse, CEO, Norm Cement

Telecom & Transport: Ms. Shirin Aliyeva, Azercell Telecom

Retail & Distribution: Ms. Konul Karimova, Deputy CEO, Veyselolu Group of Companies

- key barriers and opportunities;
- investment and technology needs;
- SME implications and opportunities;
- cross-sector recommendations; and
- areas where business-government collaboration is required.

The synthesis will connect economy-wide decarbonization, renewable energy and energy efficiency, low-carbon transport, industry and buildings, waste management, sustainable agriculture and climate resilience with related scalable achievements, challenges and aspirations.

14:50–15:00 | Leadership Spotlight: Enabling the Role of SME — 10 min

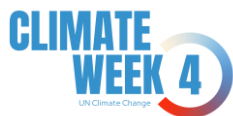
A dedicated discussion on the role of **small and medium-sized enterprises** in climate action, **competitiveness and resilient value chains.**

Ms. Aliya Azimova

Country Representative, the International Finance Corporation

- how SMEs can access climate and sustainable finance;
- practical approaches to energy efficiency, resource efficiency and emissions reduction;
- digital and technological solutions that can lower transition costs;
- capacity-building, standards and data requirements;
- opportunities for SMEs to participate in green supply chains and corporate transition plans; and
- how governments, financial institutions and large companies can create enabling conditions for SME climate action.

[GCAA: Unleashing Enablers and Accelerators — Finance, Technology and Capacity-Building; Innovation, Climate Entrepreneurship and Small and Micro Businesses; COP31: Green Industrialization; Climate Finance]



15:00–15:10 | Audience Exchange: What Should We Act On Now? — 10 min

Moderated interventions from business, SMEs, financial institutions, government, investors and development partners.

Participants will be invited to identify **priority areas and pain points requiring action within the next 12 months.**

15:10–15:15 | The Baku Business Agenda — 5 min

Moderator synthesizes the dialogue into **4–5 cross-sector priorities for business-led climate action**, linked to NDC 3.0 implementation and the Global Climate Action Agenda.

The discussion will seek to identify:

- priority areas for collective business action;
- potential public-private and regional partnerships;
- areas requiring policy or financial intervention;
- opportunities to scale existing solutions, in particular, through the Global Climate Action Agenda; and
- potential actions to be advanced through **Baku Climate Action Week 2027** and subsequent regional platforms in support of the UNFCCC process.

15:15–15:20 | Closing Leadership Reflections — 5 min

Closing reflections from the co-organizers and selected senior leaders, reaffirming the role of the private sector in translating **Azerbaijan's NDC 3.0 into implementation**, strengthening regional cooperation and connecting local business action to the **Global Climate Action Agenda and COP31**.

Ms. Nigar Arpadarai

High Level Climate Champion for COP29, Member of Azerbaijani Parliament

Ms. Kay Merce

Manager, Engagement, UNFCCC secretariat

The session will conclude with a forward-looking commitment to use **Baku Climate Action Week and the Business Assembly as a recurring platform for business-government-finance collaboration, implementation and regional scaling of climate solutions.**

Points of Contact

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