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Dövlət Statistika Komitəsi



Ekologiya və Təbii Sərvətlər Nazirliyi

SUMMARY RECORD

FIRST MEETING OF THE INTER-MINISTERIAL WORKING GROUP ON GREEN GROWTH INDICATORS

12 December 2016

Baku, Azerbaijan

EaPGREEN



Partnership for Environment and Growth



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1. A workshop on “Green Growth Measurement in Azerbaijan” in Azerbaijan was organised on 19 May 2016 to discuss the current progress in greening the economy and the relevance of establishing a green growth measurement framework in Azerbaijan, as part of the European Union regional project “Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood” (EaP GREEN). The participants, including representatives from the Ministry of Economy and Industry, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and the State Statistical Committee, agreed to proceed with the creation of an Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Green Growth Indicators to further define and implement green growth indicators in the country.

2. The mandate of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Green Growth Indicators (WGGGI), chaired by the Ministry of Economy, is to identify and develop green growth indicators that can be used to assess progress towards green growth of the Azerbaijan’s economy. It is anticipated that the public authorities, the expert community and civil society organisations working on green growth issues and, ultimately, all citizens of Azerbaijan will be the main beneficiaries of the efforts of the Working Group on GGIs.

3. The main purposes of the WGGGI will be to guide, oversee and agree on the set of green growth indicators (GGIs) based on existing data and identify those indicators for which data flows should be established; oversee the preparation of a GGI-based report that will show progress and trends towards greening the economy of Azerbaijan; and disseminate and communicate project results to key stakeholders in Azerbaijan, to ensure the regular revision, update and use of green growth indicators.

4. This first meeting of the Working Group gathered stakeholders to discuss the choice of green growth indicators and the development of a report on green growth in Azerbaijan. Participants of the first meeting of the WGGGI included representatives of the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, State Statistical Committee, State Agency on Alternative and Renewable Energy Sources. Mr. Orkhan Kazimov and Mr. Robert Smith were hired by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD, represented at the meeting by Ms Mikaela Rambali) as part of the EaP GREEN project to prepare the indicators-based report in Azerbaijan (see the full list of participants in Annex 1).

Agenda Item 1. Opening remarks

5. The participants took note of welcoming remarks by Mr. Murad Abdullayev (Ministry of Economy). He underlined the importance of integrating the green economy concept in strategic policy documents, especially as part of the 2020 Future Vision of Azerbaijan and the recently adopted Economic Reform Road Map that promote economic and energy diversification.

Agenda Item 2. Introduction to the OECD green growth measurement framework

6. Under this agenda item the participants took note of the presentation by Ms Mikaela Rambali (OECD) on the OECD green growth strategy, its green growth measurement framework. She then gave examples of its application in OECD member and non-member countries, including on challenges and lessons learned in terms of indicator selection, data compilation, interpretation and institutional co-ordination.

Agenda Item 3. Statistical indicators system on the “green economy”

7. Under this agenda item the participants took note of the intervention by Ms. Rena Lazimova, State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan, on the Committee’s work on environmental and economic information. She mentions the 2013 State Programme for Statistical Development including work on green economy and databases.

Agenda Items 4-6. Discussion on each of the group of green growth indicators

8. In this part of the meeting, Mr. Orkhan Kazimov presented the indicators that were chosen for representing the greening of the economy of Azerbaijan, as part of the list prepared by the State Statistical Committee. Ms. Mikaela Rambali followed by providing examples of what other countries had chosen for their own list of green growth indicators. The participants discussed the relevance of the proposed indicators for showing progress with greening the economy. Other indicators were suggested and considered to be added to the list of indicators.

9. The discussion was structured around the four groups of indicators suggested by the OECD:

1. the indicators on environmental and resource productivity of the economy
2. the indicators on the natural asset base
3. the indicators on environmental dimension of quality of life
4. the indicators on the economic opportunities and policy responses

Agenda Items 7-8. Finalisation of the GGI list and preparation of the GGI report

10. The members of the WGGGIs:

- considered how to best integrate green growth measurement in the governmental agenda;
- Agreed to join forces to contribute to a government report on Green Growth Indicators in Azerbaijan that would present the state and trends of greening the economy of Azerbaijan using the approved list of GGIs;
- Agreed that the report would be published under the authority of the Ministry of Economy;
- And expressed interest in having a next meeting of the WGGGI (March 2017 tbc).

11. As agreed during the May workshop, the preparation of the report on GGI is being undertaken by Mr. Orkhan Kazimov a national consultant, in collaboration with local experts and relevant stakeholders/members of the Working Group and helped by an international expert, Mr. Robert Smith. The OECD provided funding for hiring consultants through the EaP GREEN project.



12. The following tentative timetable was approved by the members.

Tasks	Key dates
Gap analysis and identification of national set	November 2016
List of proposed GGIs in a tabular form presented to WG on GGI with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a brief justification/rationale of the proposed • definition and indicators and their policy relevance; • references to the data source 	12 th December 2016 → Discussion at the WGGGI (including comments from international expert and OECD)
Draft outline of the report	
Send revised list of GGIs to members of the WGGGI	December 2016 for comments in January
Drafting of report by national expert	December 2016 / January 2017
Send draft 1 to international expert and OECD for comments	End of January 2017 (date tbc)
Review report	February 2017
Send draft 2 to international expert and OECD for comments	End of February 2017 (date tbc)
Finalise report	March 2017
Send for approval by the WG on GGI	Mid-March 2017 (date tbc)
Send for translation	March 2017 (date tbc)
Publication in ENG and AZE	April 2016 (date tbc)

Agenda Item 9. Conclusions and next steps

13. Mr. Orkhan Kazimov and Ms. Mikaela Rambali thanked the participants for their active participation in the discussions and expression of support for the GGI project in Azerbaijan.

14. The presentations from the meeting would be made available on the EaP GREEN web site: <http://www.green-economies-eap.org/home/>.

Annex I List of Participants

Republic of Azerbaijan	
Ministry of Economy, Azerbaijan	Murad Abdullayev Head of Industry Department
	Sabuhi Babayev
	Parvin Khasiyeva
	Emrah Garayev
	Vasif Bayramaliyev
Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Azerbaijan	Mr. Mirsalam Ganbarov
	Mr. Elchin MAMEDOV Advisor, Environmental Policy Division, National Coordinator of the Program EaP Green
State Statistical Committee	Ms. Rena Lazimova Head of Department of Energy and Environment statistics
State Agency on Alternative and Renewable Energy Sources	Mr. Rauf Gurbanov Deputy Head of Department of Economy
EU Resident Twinning Advisor	Katja Loven Resident Twinning Advisor
Ministry of Agriculture	Dr. Firdovsi Fikratzade Head of Analytical and Statistical Department
Ministry of Energy	Ms. Nargiz Farajullayeva
Republican Centre for Hygiene and Epidemiology	Ziyaddin Kazimov
Azerbaijani Institute of Standardisation and Certification	Mahmud Huseynov
“Azerbaijan Irrigation and Water Industry” JSC	Ilham Mammadov
“Azerwater” JSC (“AzərSu”)	Magsud Babayev



“Azerejergy” JSC (“AzərEnerji”)	Kamran Jabrayilov
SOCAR	Elnur Alizade
SOCAR	Parvana Babayeva
Other	
Baku Transport Agency	Mr. Orkhan Kazimov, national consultant
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	Ms. Mikaela RAMBALI Policy Analyst Mikaela.RAMBALI@oecd.org
Midsummer Analytics	Mr. Robert Smith, international consultant rob@midsummer.ca