



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

16th session of Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission

General Statements Segment

Statement by Azerbaijan

Geneva, 31 August 2026

Thank you Chair,

At the outset, we would like to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election. We would also like to thank the UNCTAD secretariat for its work, and in particular for the analysis contained in the World Investment Report 2026 on international investment in a turbulent era.

Azerbaijan attaches great importance to the work of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission as a platform where the substantive contributions of UNCTAD's expert bodies are translated into policy-relevant guidance for member States. As the global investment landscape becomes increasingly shaped by geopolitical tension, supply-chain reconfiguration and the rapid diffusion of digital and AI-driven technologies, the Commission's role in helping developing and transition economies navigate this environment is more relevant than ever.

For Azerbaijan, this session comes at a moment of significant national transformation. Building on the Socio-Economic Development Strategy for 2022–2026, which set clear targets for growth in non-oil foreign direct investment, the Government has in recent months adopted a new generation of strategic instruments: the Digital Development Concept, the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy for 2025–2028, and, most recently, the Action Plan for Accelerating Digital Development for 2026–2028, approved by presidential decree in February 2026 alongside the establishment of a Digital Development Council chaired at the highest level of government. Together, these instruments position digitalization and AI not as isolated technology initiatives, but as cross-cutting drivers of productivity, public-service delivery and enterprise development across the economy.

Azerbaijan continues to advance economic diversification through instruments such as the Alat Free Economic Zone, and continued investment in transport and logistics connectivity, including the Middle Corridor linking Europe and Asia. We are equally committed to green and sustainable investment, building on the legacy of our COP29 Presidency, including efforts to mobilize climate-aligned investment, notably in the reconstruction and green development of the Garabagh region.

At the same time, my delegation recognizes that translating strategic vision into inclusive, resilient outcomes requires sustained effort — in building digital skills, extending digitalization to small and medium enterprises, strengthening cybersecurity and data-governance frameworks, and ensuring that regulatory frameworks keep pace with the speed of technological change. In this regard, Azerbaijan values UNCTAD's technical cooperation, including through investment policy reviews and related follow-up support, as a means of translating recommendations into concrete reform.

We look forward to constructive discussions under the substantive agenda items of this session.

Thank you.