



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

16th session of Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission

Agenda Item 5: Navigating the global investment landscape: Strategic policy options"

Statement by Azerbaijan

Geneva, 31 August 2026

Thank you Chair,

We thank the Secretariat for a report that captures with clarity the structural shifts now underway in global investment — the growing weight of strategic and risk-management considerations, the reconfiguration of supply chains, and the rise of a small set of strategic sectors that now account for a rapidly growing share of global greenfield investment.

These global trends resonate directly with Azerbaijan's own experience. Located at the crossroads of the Middle Corridor connecting Europe and Asia, our country has sought to position itself as a connectivity and logistics hub capable of absorbing new, more resilience-oriented investment, while building the digital and institutional foundations needed to compete for investment in higher-value, technology-intensive sectors.

Azerbaijan has moved to institutionalize its digital and AI agenda through recently adopted instruments.—A central actor translating this agenda into enterprise-level impact is the 4SIM Center — the Center for Analysis and Coordination of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, operating under Azerbaijan's Ministry of Economy since 2021 as the country's affiliated centre within the World Economic Forum's Fourth Industrial Revolution Network. 4SIM works at the interface of industrial digitalization, artificial intelligence and enterprise transformation, supporting the technological upgrading of local companies, delivering large-scale digital-skills training programmes, and advancing projects such as a national Industry 4.0 Center to serve as a hub for enterprise digital transformation. Through its links to global 4IR networks and platforms, 4SIM already engages a range of international partners, and my delegation notes the Center's openness to explore cooperation with UNCTAD — including on enterprise digitalization, industry 4.0 readiness, and the diffusion of AI-related productive capacities to small and medium-sized enterprises — as a concrete channel for translating this Commission's policy dialogue into operational engagement.

Among the strategic sectors now shaping global investment flows, Azerbaijan's strongest progress is in AI infrastructure — data centres, government cloud and cybersecurity are explicit pillars of our digital development planning, supported by our position as a regional energy supplier. We are similarly advanced in energy-transition technologies, building on our

Caspian offshore wind potential and a national hydrogen strategy currently in development, with significant green capacity targeted for export to Europe by 2030.

Our 2022 Law on Investment Activity, the Alat Free Economic Zone, investment promotion certificates and a "single window" investment promotion agency together form the backbone of our facilitation framework, complemented by a new fast-track mechanism for strategic projects and continued digitalization of business registration.

We recognize the gap between ambition and delivery in several of these areas. As a country still building capacity in several strategic sectors, Azerbaijan is conscious that such investment remains highly concentrated among a small number of technologically advanced economies, and that closing this gap will take sustained, not one-off, effort.

In this context, we see real value in the type of support UNCTAD provides through investment policy reviews and follow-up implementation assistance, as reflected in the experiences of Bangladesh and Tunisia highlighted in the secretariat's report. Azerbaijan encourages UNCTAD to continue strengthening its work on investment facilitation, digital economy measurement, and policy guidance for strategic-sector development in developing and transition economies, and stands ready to share its own experience as a contribution to this collective effort.

Thank you.