



## **GREEN PITCHING FOR CENTRAL ASIA: INVESTMENT IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE**

### **Concept Note**

**Date:** December 3, 2023 (15:00-16:30)

**Place:** Pavilion of Central-Asian countries at COP28, Dubai, UAE

**Event format:** offline format

**Objective:** To promote green initiatives in Central Asia that attract investment and foster sustainable development while enhancing climate resilience in the region.

### **Context:**

The Central Asia Pavilion's primary objective is to showcase Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan as a region characterized by the harmonious blend of sustainable growth and innovative investment opportunities. In this dynamic corner of the world, the fusion of time-honored traditions with cutting-edge solutions cultivates an environment highly conducive to sustainable investments.

Organizing a green pitching event for Central Asia at the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP) provides a unique and crucial platform to address the pressing environmental and developmental challenges facing the region. Central Asia is at a pivotal moment in its history, where the need for sustainable development and climate resilience is more urgent than ever. The COP, as a global gathering of nations committed to addressing climate change, offers a remarkable opportunity to bring together stakeholders, investors, governments, and innovators to focus on the specific needs and opportunities of Central Asia.

Central Asia is a region that is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with increasing risks of water scarcity, extreme weather events, and ecosystem degradation. According to UNDP the warming exceeds the global averages in Central Asia, and the average annual temperatures have risen by 0.5 degrees Celsius over the last three decades and are forecast to increase by 2.0 to 5.7 degrees Celsius by 2085. Increased incidence and velocity of extreme weather events and disasters threaten physical security, critical infrastructure and access to healthcare and education. Simultaneously, the region boasts immense potential for sustainable growth, given its vast renewable energy resources, abundant agricultural land, and untapped economic opportunities. However, unlocking this potential requires targeted investments and a coordinated effort to transition to green and climate-resilient pathways.

At the same time, Central Asian countries show stable economic with a significant leap forward over the last two decades, reaching an average annual GDP growth of 6.2% in real terms. Central Asia's aggregate GDP totals around US \$347 billion with a sevenfold growth over the past 20 years. Central Asia, like many regions around the world, is increasingly recognizing the importance of transforming towards green growth to ensure sustainable economic development, reduce environmental degradation, and address the challenges of climate change. Most of the countries in the region have affirmed their dedication to achieving carbon neutrality by incorporating relevant policies and strategic documents into the state planning system.

The Green Projects Pitching Event at COP for Central Asia, on the other hand, serves as a forum for showcasing innovative and sustainable projects that can address these challenges while driving economic growth. It provides a stage for Central Asian nations to present their green initiatives, seek partnerships with international investors and organizations, and demonstrate their commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to a changing climate. Furthermore, it highlights the region's role in contributing to global climate action, as its sustainable development can serve as a model for other parts of the world facing similar challenges.

In this context, the green pitching event aims to facilitate collaboration, foster innovation, and catalyze investments in Central Asia's green and resilient future. It showcases projects across various sectors, such as renewable energy, water management, sustainable agriculture, and eco-tourism, that can not only mitigate climate change but also improve the quality of life for the people of Central Asia. By bringing together stakeholders from within and outside the region, this event aims to create a collective vision and commitment to building a sustainable and climate-resilient Central Asia, aligning with the global goals of the Paris Agreement and the broader sustainable development agenda.

**Key feature:**

The Green Pitching session follows a TEDx-inspired format, focusing on thematic blocks (energy, water, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, sustainable infrastructure, etc.) that cover important aspects of green investments and climate resilience. There will be a series of engaging presentations by representative organizations from each CA country that will open the window to investment possibilities in their respective region.

In addition, each of the Central Asian countries will present 1-2 pitches - eco-innovative ideas and solutions for managing water resources, energy, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, sustainable infrastructure, etc., which can be applied in the presenting countries.

## AGENDA

<b>15:00 – 15:10</b>	Registration of participants
<b>15:10 – 15:20</b>	<p><b>Welcoming speech and opening remarks</b> Introduction to the event's goals and significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nuri Ozbagdatli</b>, Climate Change Specialist for Europe and Central Asia Region, UNDP</li> </ul>
<b>15:20 – 15:25</b>	<p><b>Short film “Central Asia: Leading the way to a sustainable future”</b> <i>The short film will emphasize Central Asian countries' commitment to low-carbon strategies, showcase successful pilot projects, highlight the investment environment, and set the tone for the next events during the session.</i></p>
<b>15:25 – 16:10</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gaukhar Buribayeva</b>, Chairwoman of the Managing Board, DAMU Entrepreneurship Development Fund JSC (Republic of Kazakhstan) <i>About the role of Damu in the field of green financing of SMEs. UNDP-Damu initiative on establishing an energy efficiency fund.</i></li> <li>• <b>Almasbi Kamalov</b>, Managing Director for Economics and Finance, Samruk-Energy JSC (Republic of Kazakhstan) <i>About the work carried out in Samruk-Energo JSC on the conversion of coal-fired thermal power plants to gas through the use of transition financial instruments (Sustainability-linked bonds)</i></li> <li>• <b>Zhomart Momynbayev</b>, Partner, Technogrupservice LLP (Kyrgyz Republic) <i>On the ongoing work to attract investment through the issue of green bonds to finance a solar power plant with a capacity of 50 MW</i></li> <li>• <b>Asror Mirzoev</b>, CEO, Akia Avesto Avtomotive Industry (Republic of Tajikistan) <i>About the work carried out on the launch of the sustainable public transport project in Dushanbe</i></li> <li>• <b>Danat Zhumin</b>, Co-Chairman, Association for Sustainable Development of Territories “Q88” (Republic of Kazakhstan) <i>Collection and Utilization of Biogas at the MSW Landfill in Almaty</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Nuri Ozbagdatli, Climate Change Specialist for Europe and Central Asia Region, UNDP</i></p>
<b>16:10 – 16:20</b>	<b>Investor Insights, Q&amp;A session</b>

	<p>Investors share insights into their decision-making processes, investment criteria, and strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conrad Albrecht, Managing Director, Eurasian Development Bank;</li><li>• Discussion on how Central Asian projects can align with investor expectations;</li><li>• Q&amp;A session.</li></ul> <p><i>Moderator: Manas Gizhduaniyev, Deputy CEO, AIFC GFC</i></p>
<b>16:20 – 16:30</b>	<b>Wrap up: summarize the highlights of the day's sessions.</b>