

Hosting the largest events of the year - both the II Karabakh War and COVID-19 pandemic caused massive disruption in people's lives around the world and seriously affected the implementation of SDGs in Azerbaijan in several areas – economic growth, employment, healthcare, education and tourism. On the other hand, a number of youth and women became victims affected by the war; a number of men and young men lost their lives. In addition, discrimination and inequalities against women and girls raised, people with disabilities and youth from disadvantaged backgrounds with less access to resources and technologies have been underlined.

**It is recommended to Azerbaijani Government to:**

- implement inclusive education model to make the educational system and infrastructure of schools, universities and other means of educational institutions accessible for all young people including the youth with disabilities and people living in remote communities;
- increase the quality education in high-schools and universities in order for transition from education to employment, through state programs that will align the education and labor sector, through paid internships and involvement of the private and public sector;
- provide equal and inclusive integration and transformation for IDPs and migrants of the conflict affected regions of the country by implementing transitional policies.
- take appropriate measures to achieve gender equality by signing the Istanbul Convention make the human rights system equal and constructive for the possible communication between men and women in order to reduce gender based violence;

**SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:**

1. What modalities did your government adopt to ensure meaningful participation of rightsholder groups, particularly those most affected by development challenges, in the elaboration of the VNR?
2. What citizen-led engagement strategies have occurred to contribute to the national review process? What plans does your government have to follow- up the presentation of the VNR at national and subnational levels after the HLPF?
3. What are the specific initiatives taken to focus on the populations that are often discriminated against such as women, young persons, Indigenous Peoples, older persons, persons with disabilities, LGBTI people, persons discriminated on work and descent, migrants and refugees, as well as people in fragile and conflict-affected states, among others, including intersectionalities of these?