

## Agenda

# REGIONAL DIALOGUE

## Accelerating the race to net zero in Central Asia

23 September 2021

10:00 (FRA, DEU) | 13:00 (TJK, TKM, UZB) | 14:00 (KAZ, KGZ) | 16:00 (MNG)

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### The challenge

**One hundred twenty-four countries have pledged to achieve net-zero** greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in the second half of the century. Together, they account for about 70% of global GDP and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. A Race to Zero campaign is unfolding to get the remaining countries on board ahead of UN Climate Conference COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021. As countries emerge from the COVID-19 crisis, the design of recovery and stimulus packages offers an opportunity to ensure that measures support rather than hinder the transition.

**The development of long-term low emissions development strategies (LT-LEDS)**, which the Paris Agreement encourages all countries to formulate and communicate, is a particularly useful instrument for accelerating the transition to net zero. In Central Asia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have added to the growing momentum by developing sectoral or economy-wide LT-LEDS with net-zero targets by mid-century. **These commitments now have to be operationalised and embraced by all stakeholders and sectors, particularly the energy sector**, which in most countries is the largest source of GHG emissions. This is an enormous challenge in itself, and there are important sectoral and economy-wide bottlenecks that countries must address in order to implement their LT-LEDS effectively.

### The event

In order to **help Central Asian countries identify ways to overcome these challenges and identify opportunities for modernisation and innovation**, the OECD is convening a policy dialogue webinar as part of a series of regional consultations that will lay the groundwork for implementation of a new project led by the OECD on greener growth and sustainable infrastructure in Central and Southeast Asia to be launched in late 2021. Participants will discuss:

- how Central Asian countries **can learn from each other to better integrate LT-LEDS into their planning objectives** for the energy sector;
- how Central Asia can **accelerate improvements to framework conditions** to attract more private-capital and private-led R&D into renewables and other low-emission energy projects; and
- how governments can **win public support for the reform of harmful fossil-fuel subsidies**.

The OECD plans to organise other policy dialogues focused on the remaining framework conditions, as expressed by countries of Central Asia, particularly in regard to:

- the development of **sustainable finance**;
- the investment in **skills and innovation** needed to accelerate the shift to renewable energy sources and to promote a “just transition”; and
- the **roles for state-owned enterprises and private firms**, in line with SOE governance reforms.

### The participants

High-level policymakers and practitioners from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan responsible for strategic planning, energy, environment, industrial development, transport, and international experts and other relevant stakeholders.

### Contacts

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## Annotated Agenda

**Thursday, 23 September 2021**

**Moderator** Mr. William Tompson, Head of Eurasia Division, Global Relations Secretariat, OECD

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### 10:00-10:15 (Paris, CET)

13:00 (TJK, TKM, UZB) | 14:00 (KAZ, KGZ) | 16:00 (MNG)

#### 1. Welcome remarks

- Mr. Masamichi Kono, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD

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### 10:15-10:25

13:15-13:25 (TJK, TKM, UZB) | 14:15-14:25 (KAZ, KGZ) | 16:15-16:25 (MNG)

#### 2. Setting the scene - Progress, opportunities and challenges for a net zero transition in Central Asia

The OECD Secretariat will share recent analyses of measures that can support the acceleration of the transition.

The discussion will draw in particular on a new *OECD Green Recovery Database*, and an assessment of the weaknesses in the framework conditions for entrepreneurship and investment in Central Asia, as part of the EU-financed *Central Asia Initiative*.

The discussion will also leverage the experience of the *2050 Pathway Platform* coordinated by the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations to support countries seeking to develop long-term, net-zero GHG, climate-resilient, and sustainable development pathways.

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### 10:25-11:15

13:25-14:15 (TJK, TKM, UZB) | 14:25-15:15 (KAZ, KGZ) | 16:25-17:15 (MNG)

#### 3. Country perspectives

This session will hear from policy-makers in Central Asian countries about their plans for the transition to net zero by mid-century. Countries will set out some of their activities and explain how these fit into the overall regional growth and development outlook.

#### Panellists

- Mr. Ilkhom Norkulov, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction of Uzbekistan
- Mr. Ashurboy Solehzoda, First Vice Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan (*tbc*)
- Mr. Alibek Kuantyrov, Vice Minister of National Economy Kazakhstan
- Ms. Galina Romanova, Head of the State Finances and Economic Policy Department, Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan
- Mr. Ermek Ashyrov, Senior Specialist at the Strategic Planning Department of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Kyrgyzstan.

#### Questions and open discussion with participants

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**11:15-11:50**

14:15-14:50 (TJK, TKM, UZB) | 15:15-15:50 (KAZ, KGZ) | 17:15-17:50 (MNG)

**4. Perspective from the international community**

The OECD Secretariat will offer an opportunity to international partners to share their perspectives on the opportunities and challenges of accelerating the transition to net zero in the region.

**Panellists**

- Ms. Yasmin S. Siddiqi, Director, Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division, Central and West Asia Department, ADB
- Mr. Yerlan Ramazanov, Senior Banker in Energy Eurasia, Middle East and Africa, EBRD
- Mr. Patrick E. Meyer, Energy Team Leader, Economic Development Office, Central Asia, USAID
- Mr. Klaus Hachmeier, Senior Director Government Affairs, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Russia/CIS, Siemens Energy
- Mr. Julien Perez, VP Strategy & Policy, OGCI (Oil and Gas Climate Initiative)

**Questions and open discussion with participants**

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**11:50-11:55**

14:50-14:55 (TJK, TKM, UZB) | 15:50-15:55 (KAZ, KGZ) | 17:50-17:55 (MNG)

**5. Focus of the next events of this series of regional consultations**

The OECD Secretariat will provide an overview of the planned activities to develop further capacity in the region to accelerate the transition to net zero, particularly as part of the forthcoming project on sustainable infrastructure and OECD ongoing work in the region under the framework of the *GREEN Action Task Force* and the *Eurasia Competitiveness Programme*.

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**11:55-12:00**

14:55-15:00 (TJK, TKM, UZB) | 15:55-16:00 (KAZ, KGZ) | 17:55-18:00 (MNG)

**6. Closing remarks and next steps**

The OECD Secretariat will close the meeting and detail the next steps.