

# Speech by Gordon Birrell, bp's EVP, production and operations at Baku Energy Forum

1 June 2023

## 'Unleashing the AND not OR approach to energy'

- Thank you, Mat.
- Your Excellency...
- Minister of energy...
- Distinguished members of the panel.
- Dear friends and colleagues from SOCAR...
- Dear friends and colleagues from bp...
- It's a pleasure and honour to be here.
- Particularly this year – the year of Heydar Aliyev and his 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- I had the honour of meeting [President Aliyev] during my first assignment to Azerbaijan as head of exploration some years ago.
- I celebrated an anniversary of my own this year when I turned 60.
- 30 of those years have been at bp.
- Which means I have been at bp for every year of our proud 31- year connection with Azerbaijan.
- As a company we are deeply proud to be part of Azerbaijan's truly remarkable energy story.
- The signing of ACG in 1994 and then first oil three years after.
- The building and completion of the Baku- Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline.
- The Deal of the New Century in 2017.
- From discovery and into production of Shah Deniz – one of the world's great gas fields.

- From inception to completion of the Southern Gas Corridor – a brand new source of energy security for millions of people.
- And the numerous community projects we have supported – with a heavy emphasis on education – serving future generations.
- It’s a truly remarkable story – and there is so much more to come, including much more volumes of gas into Europe.
- In fact, I am even more excited today – as head of bp’s production and operations team – than I was the day I first arrived here in Baku in 1999.
- Why?
- Because the opportunities to create value - support the country – support communities – create jobs – are greater and more diverse than ever.
- My good friend and colleague Gary Jones, head of bp business in this region will say more on this later...but let me briefly just set out our priorities...
- We are building a new offshore platform as the next stage of the giant ACG field development.
- Just a few weeks ago we were honoured to welcome President Aliyev to our construction site to celebrate the safe completion of this new production facility.
- We are evaluating deep-lying gas reservoirs under the producing ACG oil field.
- We are exploring growth opportunities at Shah Deniz – and Gary Jones and our friends at SOCAR and SOFAZ were there recently to see progress on our new exploration well.
- And we are expanding our energy offer to Azerbaijan in solar with the view to building a 240-megawatt solar power plant in Jabrayil.
- We’re hugely proud to be a trusted part of this future.
- Producing oil and gas today and for decades to come.
- And building new low carbon energies for the future.
- It’s about AND not OR.

- That's what the world needs – and that's what bp's strategy is specifically designed to deliver.
- Safely, responsibly producing secure, affordable energy for today, which is mainly oil and gas.
- And at the same time, safely, responsibly helping the transition to tomorrow's energy system – which has to be lower carbon, as well as secure and affordable.
- Azerbaijan is well placed for this energy transition.
- And as the country's trusted energy partner, bp is deeply committed to maximising its potential.
- Thank you.