

**Azərbaycan Respublikasının  
BMT yanında Daimi  
Nümayəndəliyi**



**Permanent Mission of the  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
to the United Nations**

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633 Third Avenue, Suite 3210, New York, NY, 10017  
Tel: (212) 371-2559, 371-2832 (ext. 101); Fax: (212) 371-2784, (646) 738-6143

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and with reference to the Secretary-General's Note Verbale UNW/2018/17, dated 18 September 2018, has the honor to submit the national report prepared by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan relating to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the 23<sup>rd</sup> special session of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women the assurances of its highest consideration.



New York, 6 March 2019

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality  
and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)  
New York

## **Section One: Priorities, achievements, challenges and setbacks**

### **1. What have been the most important achievements, challenges and set-backs in progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women over the past 5 years?**

- ✓ On February 21, 2017, the First woman Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan was appointed. It is the second-highest constitutional post in Azerbaijan, after the President.
- ✓ One of the achievements was creation country wide on-line database on domestic violence against women in order to improve collection, analysis and use of data. The presentation ceremony of the mentioned on- line date bank was held on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2017. Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs and local executive powers have access to this database. These agencies are considered to collect relevant data and enter it to the database which includes information about the victim (including sex, age and relationship with the accused), perpetrator, location and interim measures (protection order) and final judgments. Currently, measures are carried out jointly with the United Nations Population Fund in order to ensure better improvements of online data bank.
- ✓ The second important challenge was economic empowerment of women. A number of projects were implemented in the direction of increasing the percentage of the women entrepreneurs. Government believes that economic independence of women is one of the components of their active participation in political and public life. It facilitates poverty reduction, ensure advance in women's economic and social performance and in many cases eliminates gender based discrimination in society. The Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Azerbaijan was established in October 2017. The Association has concluded memorandums of cooperation with the foreign

associations of women entrepreneurs in order to learn and share experience and best practices . Azerbaijan`s Trade Houses have been opened by the Ministry of Economy in different part of the world and women entrepreneurs of Azerbaijan are actively involved by the government in this activity. As a result of state programs and different projects, the number of women entrepreneurs have been increased from 4 % to 29% More than 172 000 women are engaged in entrepreneurial activity across the country.

- ✓ On May 30, 2018, the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs held the V Forum of Women dedicated to 100 years anniversary of granting full suffrage. The purpose of the forum was marking the 100th anniversary of the election right to women and the progress achieved in the protection of women's rights over the past 100 years.

**2. Which of the following have been the top five priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in your country over the past five years through laws, policies and/or programs? (please check relevant categories)**

- ✓ Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security
- ✓ Eliminating violence against women and girls
- ✓ Political participation and representation
- ✓ Changing negative social norms and gender stereotypes

***Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security***

- The adoption and implementation of targeted policy documents, such as the State Program on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development for 2008-2015, a wide range of state programs for the social-economic development of the regions, as well as specific state programs, the implementation of necessary reforms in relevant areas, the legislative framework (different laws and regulatory acts were

adopted on the cost of living, targeted social assistance, social benefits, pensions and other issues) contributed to the poverty eradication.

- 12 strategic road maps approved pursuant the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Strategic Roadmaps on National Economy and Key Sectors of the Economy , agricultural production and processing production of consumer goods by small and medium sized enterprises; affordable housing; vocational education and training; financial services; telecommunications and information technologies; utilities (power and thermal energy, water and gas)
- United Nations-Azerbaijan Partnership Framework (UNAPF) for 2010-2016. The UNAPF development process took into account the national priorities set out in Azerbaijan 2020 as well as post-2015 goals. The document identified three interrelated strategic priority areas ; 1) Promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development underpinned by increased diversification and decent work; 2) Strengthening institutional capacities and effective public and social services; 3)Improving environmental management and resilience to hazards and human – induced disasters. All these State Programs contain gender component as one of the main strategic direction.

### ***Eliminating violence against women and girls***

The establishment of monitoring groups on combating all forms of violence against children representing different state organizations (Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, Azerbaijan Attorney General) and executive powers is one of the gained achievements in Azerbaijan for the protection of the rights. To improve collection, analysis, use of data and research on children`s situation, the Government of Azerbaijan has already started the establishment of country-wide on-line database on children`s rights that is being implemented to better coordinate situation in this field with the participation of relevant ministers.

All the information about the children is being included to the children's database – information on children and their parents, children deprived of parental care, orphans, children at risk, children in state institutions, the children was subject to violence or violence committed by children.

Official presentation on inter-agency GBV was realized to ensure improved institutional response capacity as well as availability of an adequate tool for internal accountability and performance monitoring as regards collection, analysis and use of data on domestic violence. The representatives from all relevant agencies have been duly registered in the system in the capacity of the Database users. These agencies will collect relevant data and enter it to the database which includes information about the victim (including the information on sex, age and relationship with the perpetrator), perpetrator, location, interim measures (protection orders, court judgments, etc.). The SCFWCA acts as the Administrator of the Database in line with the respective order of the Cabinet of Ministers. 652 facts of domestic violence including 346 cases in 2015, 306 cases of in 2016. Totally 650 facts were registered in the electronic data bank according to the 1 October 2017 - 20 December 2018.

The State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Affairs initiated a two-year project entitled "Combating gender-based violence in Azerbaijan" in close partnership with UNFPA and US Agency for International Development (USAID) in 2016-2017. The main objective of the project was to support the Government of Azerbaijan with creation of effective guidance and response mechanisms to combat gender-based violence. The project was implemented through the series of interrelated components on improvement of legal and policy framework, large scale awareness-raising campaigns, provision of trainings for relevant service providers, as well as development of integrated strategies to coordinate multi-sectorial approaches to addressing violence against women that are expected to contribute to the series of major outcomes, outputs and results. Azerbaijan Government is currently engaged in the development of the National Action Plan

on GBV prevention and response as well as the guidelines for establishment of the inter-agency coordination mechanism as regards this issue. Both policy documents have major provisions on improving the delivery of support, protection and rehabilitation services through support and referral centers for victims of violence. The document also envisions further revision of the accreditation rules and procedures for the centers in a capacity to provide the adequate support services to the victims of GBV. The National Action Plan on domestic violence has passed through relevant state agencies and is presented to the Cabinet of Ministers for approval.

As an example of high-level advocacy events it is worth to mention annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence Campaigns that provided platform to review the progress regarding implementation of the national legal and policy framework on domestic violence and the related international commitments.

As a part of strategies to engage men and boys in violence prevention, following events were introduced:

- During the football game, the players of the football team raised red card to tribunes and TV cameras to urge male audience to say No to gender based violence. Symbolizing penalty for offense in various sporting codes and seeking suspension from game, red cards were shown to all batterers and abusers. The message was clear: “if you commit gender based violence, then you get a red card and you are out of the game”. More than 88,000 people watched the game online and on TV with 14,000 watching the game from the tribunes during the performance.
- To emphasize the linkages between the GBV and human rights the special performance took place on the International Human Rights Day, December 10<sup>th</sup> 2018. Flash mobs were organized in the shopping malls of Baku to reach out to young population with message in more engaging and entertaining way. The flash mob brought attention to education problems of women and girls as a basic prerequisite for elimination of gender based violence. The trees symbolizing a

woman as a stem of progress were installed at the center of shopping malls' entrance halls. The paper leaves of the tree accommodated popular quotes of famous persons about women's education and empowerment. At the very start of the flash mob, a young female violin player approached the tree and began to perform amazing classical music. Meanwhile, young ladies in black and white cloaks from various points of mall started to head to the tree and picked the leaves. After a pause they all threw off their cloaks and appeared in various outfits, symbolizing different professions –lawyers, engineers, sportswomen, etc. The main message delivered to the audience was: sustainable development is possible with the educated and empowered women that are provided with all necessary resources and opportunities to realize their potential and contribute to the wellbeing of their respective societies and their country.

- Conferences "Leave no one behind: stop violence against women and girls!" are annually held in November by the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, UN agencies and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

For the first time in Azerbaijan, the UN Population Fund with the assistance of SCFWCA launched a research entitled "Financial Losses Caused by Gender Based Violence" at the end of 2018. The result of the investigation will reflect, the value of lost economic productivity as a result of the victim's violence, the amount of medical, social and legal support provided to the victim, as well as the factors and figures that would prevent the victim from gaining further benefits. It will accelerate the implementation of strategies and policies on prevention of GBV in the country.

Taking into account the importance of women's legal awareness, two-day training seminars were held among women living in the regions in September-November 2017. The "Women's Rights Guide", a joint publication by the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs and the GIZ, publication of "Legislation on

Prevention of Domestic Violence in the Republic of Azerbaijan", as well as the State Committee's Family, Women's Journal was distributed to the participants.

***Political participation and representation***

Guidelines for the Leadership for Women in Local Governments were prepared as a result of the collaborative effort of GIZ and The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs in November 2017. Leadership, leadership styles, leadership characteristics, women's rights, women's participation at local level, public awareness, legal mechanisms were covered at the training.

Women are more and more involved in the decision making process and state bodies. The number of women in the parliament has increased from 11% (13 deputies) in the 2005 elections to 16% in the last elections (20 women out of 125 deputies) and the representation of women at municipal level has increased from 4% (2004 elections) to 35% in the elections of 2014.

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
The First Vice president of Azerbaijan		1	1
The Commissioner for Human Rights (including Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic)	2	2	2
The number of women minister (Minister of Culture and Tourism of Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic)	1	1	1
The number of deputy ministers	3	3	5
Women head of the executive powers	1	1	1
Women deputy head of the executive powers	79	77	77
The number of women judges	61	57	86
Women rectors	6	6	6



Women director of school	1223	1234	1244
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The vice president of the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan is a woman. 52 women out of 348 diplomats that work in the diplomatic missions of the Republic of Azerbaijan abroad. The total number of diplomats working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan is 109 women out of 331. The chairman of the National Council of Youth Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which unites 128 youth organizations, is a woman.

By Decree of the president on public participation, which considers the participation of citizens and civil society institutions in decision-making and organization of public control over the activity of central-executive authority bodies, Special Public Council was established within the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs in 2017. The Public Council is represented by 9 NGOs, 6 of which are headed by women. The Council plays an important role in the preparation and improvement of legislation in gender equality issues, in ensuring public oversight, making decisions in the field of protection of women's and children's rights, and for the effective organization of the work.

### ***Changing negative social norms and gender stereotypes***

The Government has taken measures and awareness raising campaigns to challenge prevalent gender stereotypes related to the choice of jobs and to encourage girls and women to seek education and training in non-traditional fields, which may give them access to employment in flourishing areas of the economy and supports development of technical –vocational education for women in the regions. The special place took the campaigns and events which involves young males and fathers. The project on “Enlightenment of Young People in Promoting the Values of Girls in Azerbaijan”, was implemented in 2017/2018 with the

financial support of the Embassy of the Netherlands in Azerbaijan, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the UN Population Fund, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the State Committee for of Family, Women and Children Affairs and the National Council of Youth Organizations,. During the project lifetime through information sessions and public events, implementing partners capitalized on raising awareness on gender equality, promoting the value of girl child and enhancing emotional ties between fathers and daughters. Special educated young trainers reached about 1400 young males in 29 cities and regions of Azerbaijan. The topics such as exploring gender roles, combating gender stereotypes, work share in a family were presented to target audience.

In order to promote the value and the role of the girls in society the conference of “Preventing Sex Selection Abortions: Men Are Here Too for Gender Equality!” was held on June 2018 and attended by state partners, civil society members, media and diplomats.

Youth Forum “Girls Can” was held jointly by UNICEF and the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA) in November 2018. The Forum brought together key decision-makers officials and young people to discuss girls’ empowerment and how the country can do more to give adolescents the opportunities to succeed and flourish in society.

The idea of the children participation in the life of the country, specially girls is very important, so every two years annual Republican Children Forum takes place. We introduced the tradition to include all proposals, suggestion and new initiatives of the children in the working plans of all state bodies and their consideration during adoption of new state programs and laws related to the children’s issues. The Special Program “From Child to Child” are being held in a period between Forums. So children themselves arrange meetings and discussion on the topic as stereotype, eraly marriages, leadership and etc.

**3. Over the past five years, have you taken specific measures to prevent discrimination and promote the rights of women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination? (please check relevant categories)**

Women living in remote and rural areas

Refugee and internally displaced women

***Women living in remote and rural areas***

The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs jointly with international organizations cooperates on the projects to help women in rural areas to create their own businesses. During 2017-2018 more than 500 rural women have been provided with capacity development support. As a result, women improved their professional skills in the field of accounting, CV and resume writing, presentation skills, financial literacy, computer science, fundraising, proposal writing and organizational development. Only in one region of the south of Azerbaijan, more than 800 school girls got access to improved water sanitation in the result of installation of new sewerage systems in 6 communities.

New created Women Resource Centers in 8 regions of the country offer women and girls free access to library resources, internet, computers, and many more. An impressive network of more than 3000 rural women was created through these centers. Over years, more than 100 women, all in all, were able to build on their entrepreneurial potential and start new businesses, through in-kind grant support, business development training and mentorship from UNDP and partners. Today, they are successfully pursuing their own businesses, additionally employing the total of 50 other women in these new establishments.

The technical assistance projects on “The promotion of women’s participation in economic and social life in rural and regional areas” are being continued in the country since 2011 to create the mechanism for disseminating knowledge, teaching skills and facilitating information exchange in the area of rural women’s economic empowerment. The Project envisioned this mechanism as a regional Women’s Resource Centers focusing on economic and social empowerment of rural women and strengthen our efforts in addressing the needs and concerns of rural women in the area of economic and social participation. 8 Women Resource Center were opened as a result of the project. Totally, 5500 women benefited from the project, 102 women started the entrepreneurship activity, 50 women were provided with jobs since 2011. During 2018, 904 women participated in trainings, 28 women joined business activity, 17 women found new jobs.

By strengthening training and extension services for rural women in Azerbaijan, FAO has launched a new project with the aim of improving women’s socio-economic empowerment and their inclusion in the paid employment sector. The project titled “Capacity Development Support to Rural Women on the Socio-economic and Gender Aspects of Sustainable Rural Development”. Within the scope of the project, FAO supported the development of a need analysis and training strategy in three pilot provinces in Azerbaijan. The provinces have been selected based on the regional differences, agricultural production patterns and capacity of women’s organizations in those cities. FAO shared its experiences with national extension service staff in undertaking gender-sensitive needs assessment, giving support for designing and providing training that targets the specific needs and priorities of rural women, especially on promoting empowerment of rural women, food security and livelihoods. The project was closely related to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly MDG 3 which advocates the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women. According to agricultural census data for 2015, the share of women in the total number of people engaged in agricultural work was 48.6%. According to agricultural census data of

2015, the share of female farm managers in the total number of farm managers that owned and/or used lands as individual entrepreneur, family-peasant and household farms was 9.4%.

***Refugee and internally displaced women***

The poverty rate among internally displaced persons has dropped from 75 percent to 12 percent in the last 15 years. In 2018, the amount of funds spent on one IDP was 937AZN (550,37\$). Over the past years, housing complexes consisting of 102 modern settlements and multi-store buildings have been built for refugees and internally displaced persons in all 30 cities and districts of the republic, with a total area of 3.5 million square meters, and provided with social and technical infrastructure. There are 156 schools, 6 music and 1 art schools, 1 theatre, 62 culture, 63 healthcare establishments, 65 kindergartens, 2 Olympic sports complexes, 775 km of roads, 985 km of water lines, 1.8 thousand km of alternative energy system, 655 kilometers of gas pipeline, 78 kilometers of communications, 62 kilometers of heat, 102 kilometers of sewerage lines, 193 kilometers of drainage networks and 866 different electric transformers have been installed. IDPs and refugees are free are free from making payment for public utilities and other services (electricity,natural gas ,drinkable water,subscription fee for telephone), also the internally placed persons getting payable education at higher and specialized secondary education establishments are free from making payment for education.

№	Indicators	The number of internally displaced persons
1	Number of internally displaced families in new	58203

	settlements	
2	Number of internally displaced persons in new settlements	300000
3	Number of women transferred to new settlements	156000
4	Number of employed women, including:	66177
	State enterprise	30281
	Private enterprise	35896
5	A women member of Parliament	2

Adopted Strategic Road Maps on the national economy and main economic sectors and Development Concept “Azerbaijan 2020: look in to the future” contains a set of measures on strengthening social protection of the population, especially vulnerable groups including IDP and refugee women who forms half of one million refugees and IDPs living in Azerbaijan and rural women who forms ¼ of the total population. For the purpose of developing entrepreneurship, the Social Development Fund of IDPs issued microcredits to 24,000 IDPs in the amount of 14.8 million manat, while the National Fund for Entrepreneurship Support provided 2116 IDP entrepreneurs with 47.7 million manat preferential credits, 4025 new jobs were opened. Most of these micro-loans are directed to agriculture-husbandry, plant-breeding and beekeeping projects. All these measures are aimed at economic empowerment of the refugee and IDP women.

The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Rational Development for Women’s Society implemented “The elimination of sexual violence among internally displaced persons and asylum seekers/refugees” since 2014. The purpose of the project was the prevention of gender-based violence among internally displaced

persons and asylum seekers/refugees. There were held trainings by 25 trainers in 45 refugee communities. During the project computer and vocational courses were organized for refugees and internally displaced women and girls.

In the framework of the Prevention and Response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Communities for 2017-2019” Project funded by UNHCR and implemented in cooperation with State Committee for Family, Women and Children Issues. The following measures have been implemented:

- ✓ Building capacities of existing national mechanisms to prevent and respond to the cases of sexual and gender-based violence through providing necessary support to SGBV survivors in IDP communities;
- ✓ Raising awareness of IDPs on the phenomenon of sexual and gender-based violence and existing referral mechanisms to respond to such cases;
- ✓ Advocacy with the respective national agencies to pay special attention to the sexual and gender-based violence through strengthening of monitoring and response mechanisms.

This project combines several approaches such as awareness raising, capacity building, assistance and institutional strengthening with advocacy and counseling support to tackle with SGBV in IDP communities in Azerbaijan. During project period, total 60 people were provided with verbal legal consultancies, including 18 person were referred to the relevant state institutions. Working groups (networks) were set up to strengthen responses to gender-based violence and violence against children in 6 regions with the IDP and refugee population.

- 4. Has the increasing number of humanitarian crises—caused by conflict, extreme weather or other events—affected the implementation of the BPF in your country?**

YES/NO

**5. Which of the following does your country consider to be the top five priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in your country for the coming five years through laws, policies and programs? (please check relevant categories)**

- ✓ Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls
- ✓ Eliminating violence against women and girls (**Refer to the Article 2**)
- ✓ Political participation and representation (**Refer to the article 2 and 19**)
- ✓ Women's entrepreneurship and women's enterprises

**Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls**

Bearing in the mind that education is the key to the advancement of women, government tries to improve the access of women to quality higher education. The number of women studying at higher education institutions was 80 thousand in 2016-2017. So by the official statistics for the beginning of the 2017 there were 47 women and 53 men per 100 educated students in Azerbaijan. Every year The State Exam Center conducts gender review of entrance examination. Government strengthens work in those regions where the decrease of girls' entering the universities. The role of women in the field of science is also significant. 46 % of PhDs and 51 % of all scientific workers are women. On November 28, 2018, the State Customs Committee started the first stage of the competition on the service in customs bodies. To implement issues arising from the state policy to ensure gender equality, competition held only by participation of female candidates with the support of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs. "Gender equality and women`s rights" trainings were held for the representatives of coordinators from governmental and private sectors on gender issues in December, 2018



**Distribution of students studying on PhD program**

**by age groups at the beginning of 2018**

(Numbers and sex distribution, as % to total)

Age groups	Percentage distribution		Sex distribution	
	women	men	women	men
under 25	7,7	7,6	56,3	43,7
25–29	44,0	38,3	59,4	40,6
30–34	22,7	24,8	53,9	46,1
35–39	12,6	14,3	52,9	47,1
40+	13,0	15,0	52,3	47,7
<b>Total, %</b>	100,0	100,0	56,0	44,0
<b>number</b>	1215	953	x	x

**Number of students on PhD program by fields of science at the beginning of 2018**

(Number and sex distribution, as % to total)

	Percentage distribution		Sex distribution	
	women	men	women	men
Pedagogies	6,0	3,0	71,6	28,4
Philology	21,2	4,6	85,4	14,6

Chemistry	6,8	6,4	57,6	42,4
Medicine	5,8	4,7	60,9	39,1
Biology	6,9	1,5	85,7	14,3
Psychology	2,0	1,0	70,6	29,4
Physics and mathematics	5,1	4,8	57,4	42,6
Knowledge of arts	4,3	3,1	63,4	36,6
History	7,7	4,1	70,7	29,3
Architecture	0,7	0,4	66,7	33,3
Philosophy	0,5	2,1	23,1	76,9
Politics	4,2	5,5	49,5	50,5
Technics	7,3	17,6	34,6	65,4
Mechanical	0,3	1,0	30,8	69,2
Law	3,0	4,1	48,0	52,0
Economics	8,8	18,6	37,7	62,3
Geography	2,6	1,4	71,1	28,9
Earth sciences	2,1	6,1	30,1	69,9
Other	4,7	10,0	37,9	62,1
Total, %	100	100	56,0	44,0
number	1215	953	x	x

### *Women's entrepreneurship and women's enterprises*

Survey on "Obstacles to women's participation in economics in Azerbaijan" in different regions was held in September-October 2017 within the framework of a joint project implemented by the United Nations Development Program, the United Nations Population Fund and The State Committee for Family, Women and Children to determine the overall analysis of the women and girl's benefits from the economic and employment opportunities in the private sector, including positive and negative factors. The survey was conducted with the deputies of

executive powers, focus groups consisting of unemployed men and women, and directors of the private sector enterprises. In order to facilitate the employment among women in the private sector and the creation of their own business, the respondents answered the questions on the problems faced by women job seekers, solutions, existing perspectives, equality of labor rights for women and men. The Special recommendations were presented to the public and disseminated among private and public agencies.

Special training on "Financial literacy" and "Start your business and improve it" in the frames of the project "Preparing women specialists and developing women entrepreneurship in regions of Azerbaijan" are being held in the region regularly. The main purposes of the trainings is providing women with necessary knowledge on the basics of finance and support the women, who are engaged in or wish to start small and medium businesses. The Special Labor Fairs are held to help rural women to get work place. "Family Academy" project is being implemented within the municipalities with the main focus on propaganda of family institute, increasing activity and participation of women in society. In the framework of project, active discussions on "The formation of family relationships", "Management of the Family Budget", "Youth's Preparation for the family life", "Family Planning", "Start your business", "Internet security" and etc. are being held at the municipalities with the representatives of NGOs, sociologists, psychologists, lawyers, religious leaders, and economist is a form of active dialogue, discussions and exchanging of views with the members of local communities.

The Azerbaijan University of Tourism and Management jointly with private companies has begun the "Successful Woman, Successful Future" project to support women's tourism initiatives in the regions.

Six-day trainings on a range of crucial topics such as basics of tourism, management, customer service and hygiene starts in 2018. Project covers 3 regions of Azerbaijan known for tourism potential with the goal to attract women living in

these regions to education in tourism, encourage them to start tourism businesses, and support business initiatives in this area.

## **Section Two: Progress across the 12 critical areas of concern**

### **6. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to advance gender equality in relation to women's role in paid work and employment?**

Strengthened /enforced laws and workplace policies and practices that prohibit discrimination in the recruitment, retention and promotion of women in the public and private sector and equal pay legislation

Introduced / strengthened gender-responsive active labour market policies (e.g. education and training, skills, subsidies)

Improved financial inclusion and access to credit, including for self-employed women Improved access to modern technologies (climate-smart technologies), infrastructure and services (inci. agricultural extension).

Survey on "Obstacles to women's participation in economics in Azerbaijan" in different regions was held in September-October 2017 within the framework of a joint project implemented by the United Nations Development Program, the United Nations Population Fund and The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs to determine the overall analysis of the women and girl's benefits from the economic and employment opportunities in the private sector, including positive and negative factors. The survey was conducted in order to facilitate the employment among women in the private sector and to study problems faced by women job seekers, solutions, existing perspectives, equality of labor rights for women and men.

Gender-assessment – study on Women in private sector was conducted to analyze the role of the private sector in advancing gender equality and women's economic potential and economic challenges and opportunities facing women in private

sector and to support the efforts of the government, private sector and civil society organizations to promote women's economic empowerment. Objectives of the study were also to identify and analyze gender-specific barriers that hinder women in pursuing business opportunities and securing decent jobs.

On July , 2018, Regional Women's Conference entitled "Leadership and Promotion of Economic Activity of Women in the Region for Sustainable Development" was held in Salyan Region. The conference focused on sales, promotion and change of marketable products, sustainable education, promotion of women's social activity, gender-based violence against women, social activism, networking of active women in the rural areas.

Conference on "New Opportunities on the Horizon: Green Light for Women Entrepreneurs" was organized jointly by the Women Entrepreneurship Development Association.

***Introduced / strengthened gender-responsive active labour market policies (e.g. education and training, skills, subsidies***

The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On employment", which serves to improving the employment of state employment and employment services, has been adopted by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. This law envisages improvement of state policy and services, social protection of unemployed and employed citizens, formation of effective working mechanisms through introduction of innovative approaches in this area, expansion of active labor market programs. The law also includes the "Individual Employment Program" article which considers special employment program for helping a person return to the labor market.

The Employment Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2019-2030 has been approved by the Presidential Decree of October 30, 2018 with the goals to reduce

the unemployment rate to 4 per cent by 2030, including the unemployment rate among women and young people.

Measures to increase the employment of women are considered in the State Program on Socio-Economic Development of the Regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2014-2018.

According to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Additional Measures to Ensure the Self-Determination of the Population" dated April 7, 2016, a special self-employment program is implemented. Within the framework of this program, low-income families are provided with the governmental support and provision of direct, indirect material, and other property (not cash) to the family for the purpose of establishing or developing the individual households, provided that they provide. The family is provided with equipment and services in accordance with the business plan provided.

**7. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to recognize, reduce and/or redistribute unpaid care and domestic work and promote work-family conciliation?**

- ✓ Expanded childcare services or made existing services more affordable
- ✓ Conducted campaigns or awareness raising activities to encourage the participation of men and boys in unpaid care and domestic work

The International Men and Gender Equality Survey was conducted in Azerbaijan from April to July 2016, aimed to understand men's practices and attitudes as they relate to gender equality, roles and dynamics, parenting and caregiving, household relationship dynamics, health (including sexual and reproductive health and rights), and son preference. Special meetings and trainings on changing male's attitudes were done in almost all regions.

Due to the State Program on Social-Economic Development of Regions, the special attention is paid to to establish child and family centers, including,

dedicated leisure facilities and specialized services centers for children in all region of Azerbaijan. The president of Azerbaijan gave assignment during the meeting on the results of the socioeconomic development of the first quarter of 2017 to open new kindergartens on the first floor of the newly built buildings , in order to solve the kindergarten problem in Azerbaijan. In cooperation with the Trade Union Confederation a project called “The role of the modern family in the development of society” has been launched which is carried out in all regions of the republic. It focuses on awareness rising among members of confederation in the field of solving family problems, researching the influence of family issues on the work process.

- 8. Has your country introduced austerity/fiscal consolidation measures, such as cuts in public expenditure or public sector downsizing, over the past five years?**

YES/NO

- 9. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to reduce/eradicate poverty among women and girls?**

- ✓ Promoted poor women's access to decent work through active labour market policies (e.g. job training, skills, employment subsidies, etc.) and targeted measures
- ✓ Supported women's entrepreneurship and business development activities (**Refer to the Article 6** )
- ✓ Introduced/strengthened low-cost legal services for women living in poverty

*Supported women's entrepreneurship and business development activities*

12 Strategic Road Map on Main Sectors of the National Economy and Economy, as well as the Strategic Road Map for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises have been approved with the Decree No.1138 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated December 6, 2016 to define our country's perspective development goals and directions and ensure their implementation.

1227 trainings, workshops, round tables and other events were held on topics such as "Business Plans and Investment Projects Development", "Create Business Idea", "Start Your Own Business", "Marketing", "Management", "Business Management", "Business Management", Creating and developing brand "Made in Azerbaijan", "Development of environmentally friendly agriculture", "Insurance of entrepreneurial activity in agriculture" by Baku Business Training Center under the Ministry of Economy in 2013-2018. 9160 participants were women entrepreneurs and women who started their business activities. Within the framework of the project "Training of female specialists in the regions of Azerbaijan and development of female entrepreneurs" jointly with the Azerbaijan Micro-Finance Association, trainings on "Financial literacy" and "Start and develop business" were conducted in cities and regions of the republic.

The development of women entrepreneurship is one of the priorities in the Strategic Road Map on the production of consumer goods at the level of small and medium entrepreneurship in the Republic of Azerbaijan and for this purpose the following measures are envisaged:

- ✓ Development of incentive mechanisms for women entrepreneurship development (in this context, the development of stimulating mechanisms for lending, taxation and other benefits for women entrepreneurs will be the focus of the focus on the issue of women's employment, especially in rural areas);
- ✓ Developing information support for women entrepreneurship (awareness-raising activities (meetings, TV programs, internet etc.);
- ✓ Creation of women business incubators;
- ✓ Establishment of Women Entrepreneurs Association and Professional Organizations.



- ✓ Project on “Promotion of Gender Equality in the Financial Sector of Azerbaijan was implemented as part of Gender Action Plan of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Azerbaijan Microfinance Association (AMFA) to improve human resource practices and policies, and to identify and eliminate the barriers that hinder women's access to financial services, including access to financial services. Based on the findings of the special assessment, trainings were conducted on gender sensitivity for executive and mid-level management staff of the banks and potential female lenders, human Resources employees, including internal trainers.
  - ✓ Azerbaijan joined Global Startup Weekend Women to strengthen sconcepts startup, personal business, entrepreneurial activities among women, as well as increase the number of women entrepreneurs in 2018.
  - ✓ 79 women were specially trained in Germany on "Economic Cooperation" for a month in 2014-2018 in the framework of the "Joint German-Azerbaijani Program for the Advancement of Managers in the Azerbaijani Business Community".
  - ✓ The Model Regulations on Industrial Parks was approved by presidential decree which regulates issues related to the creation, management and maintenance of industrial parks. So industrial parks residents are released from income tax, property tax, land tax, importation of production equipment, technological equipment and facilities for production purposes for the period of 7 years in accordance with the Tax Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Customs Tariffs". At the same time, favorable conditions have been created for the acquisition of tax and customs privileges for legal entities and individual entrepreneurs to promote the creation of new industrial enterprises and encouraging investment in local industries. Women also engourged to become residents of such indurstrial parks. The Investment Promotion Mechanism was established by Presidentil decree of the Republic of Azerbaijan on "On Additional Measures to Promote Investment Promotion".
- "Women Entrepreneurship Development Association of Azerbaijan" (founded on October 26, 2017) and 3 women business incubators were created by the Ministry

of Economy. These business incubators were organized in different Regional Development Centers in Baku. Training centers of this business incubators offer free-of-charge training courses for women. 50 women living in one administrative regions have been trained for 2 months in the relevant professions, with the support of the Ministry of Economy and the Women Entrepreneurship Development Association of Azerbaijan. As a result, they are currently organizing their own businesses.

It should be noted that special areas for women business incubators include carpet weaving, sewing, design and handicrafts, nanny, candy, cosmetology, hairdresser and visage, ICT, tourism and so on. fields included.

The Small and Medium Business Development Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan has been established under the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of December 28, 2017 under the subordination of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The SME Volunteers Program has been developed to promote volunteer involvement of young women and men in entrepreneurship ("Young Internship Programs") in organizing and promoting youth volunteerism in government, non-government organizations and small and medium-sized businesses as well as cooperate with higher education institutions, non-governmental organizations and private businesses. On 29 November 2018, the Public Council was established under the Agency. There are 15 non-governmental organizations and associations that combine hundreds of entrepreneurs, including the Women Entrepreneurship Development Association of Azerbaijan.

The development of strategic roadmaps on main economic sectors, adoption of several steps towards the liberalization of business environment including the elimination of licenses for various fields of activity, improvement of tax, as well as the establishment of "Asan Support for Family Business" center (ABAD) will facilitate the creation of new job positions and development of small and medium entrepreneurship during 2017. ABAD public legal entity under State Agency for

Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan was established by decree of the President dated September 23, 2016. The aim of creation of ABAD is supporting development and formation of family business in the country, stimulating development of small and medium entrepreneurship in rural areas, creating additional employment opportunities for population. ABAD achieves these goals by working directly with rural local communities to create and strengthen market-linkages, improve technical and business skills. The program delivers assistance primarily through rural Marketing Centers staffed by business advisors who live and work in the regions. They help to access market and business information, provide consultation and advice from local and international experts on obtaining credit, equipment and machinery leases. Within pilot project ABAD service provides support to families engaged in production of food and handicrafts. This includes production by women of sausages, jam, pickles, and dairy products. For craftsmanship service has assessed applications of families involved in weaving, carving, jewelry, pottery and other handicrafts. ABAD negotiates with trade centers where its products will be sold and first selling points have already been determined.

**10. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve access to social protection for women and girls?**

- ✓ Introduced or strengthened social protection for unemployed women (e.g. unemployment benefits, public works programmes, social assistance)
- ✓ Introduced or strengthened non-contributory social pensions
- ✓ Reformed contributory social protection schemes to strengthen women's access and benefit levels

The president of country signed a decree on the improvement targeted social assistance on February 25, 2015. Single Electronic Application and Nomination

Sub-System on targeted state social assistance was created by Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population. According to the statistic of 2018, the number of persons unemployed in the country by employment services was 30.4 thousand, 38.1 of which were women. Targeted state social assistance were provided to 42 895 families consisting of 172,000 family members by the end of 2018. 53, 43 % (91381) of family members receiving social assistance are women, 46, 57 percent (79,639 ) are males, 54 percent (93232) are children under the age of 18.

The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan signed the Decree "On Additional Measures to Improve Management in the Field of Population Employment, Labor, Social Protection and Guarantee" dated August 9, 2018. The Agency for Sustainable and Operational Social Security (DOST) was established. Apparently, the DOST centers, brings together on one site all the structures providing social assistance to people, patronage of disabled people of various categories. It is about finding unemployed people, their retraining, employment, targeted social assistance to low-income families, involving them in the program "Self-employment" .126 kinds of services are being implemented in DOST centers. These services include labor, employment, social security, appointment of pensions, social benefits, targeted social assistance, disability assessment, disability determination and others.

"Social housing for persons over 18 years of age without a place of residence" and "Social Asylum and Rehabilitation for minors who are neglected, homeless and socially disadvantaged" have been created by the Social Assistance Fund under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population.

The signing ceremony of the project "Building a society for all aging: promoting the well-being of elderly people in Azerbaijan through aging" took place between the Labor and Social Protection of Population and the UN Population Fund. The project, which will continue until 2021, aims to support the Government's efforts to

promote the "active aging" process by the United Nations Population Fund, contributing to the well-being of the elderly.

The job fairs were organised as part of the project on enabling civil society to play a greater role in advancing gender equality and women's rights. It was funded by the European Union (EU) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and implemented by the UNDP in partnership with the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs (SCFWCA) and Women's Association for Rational Development (WARD), a local civil society organisation. The project was implemented in 3 districts of the country with objective is to enhance the role of civil society in promoting women's rights and women's involvement in civil society organisations. Prior to the job fairs, interested women participated in the training courses on CV writing, presentation skills, job interviews, computer and accounting courses.

**11. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve health outcomes for women and girls in your country?**

- ✓ Promoted women's access to health services through expansion of universal health coverage or public health services
- ✓ Expanded specific health services for women and girls, including sexual and reproductive health services, mental, maternal health and HIV services
- ✓ Undertaken gender-specific public awareness/health promotion campaigns
- ✓ Provided gender-responsiveness training for health service provider
- ✓ Provided refugee women and girls as well as women and girls in humanitarian settings with access to sexual and reproductive health services

**The following state programmes were adopted during the reporting period:**

- ✓ State Program for Improving Mother and Child Health
- ✓ State Program on Compulsory Medical Examination of Children ;

- ✓ Action Program 2016-2020 for Combating Non-infectious Diseases for 2015-2020
- ✓ Action Program immunoprophylaxis of infectious diseases among children 2016-2020

The protection of reproductive health, including the health of mother and newborns, is under close attention of the state. The obstetrics and perinatal care are organized according to the three-level principle within the framework of the regionalization of perinatal care. During 2016-2017, seven perinatal centers have been established in the country: six in the regions and one in Baku (the Republican Perinatal Center).

The development of the State Program on Population Development and Demography (2017-2030) has been acknowledged as the milestone achievement reflected the Government's efforts and commitment to better address population and development issues in the country. National clinical protocols and standards based on the principles of evidence-based medicine for the provision of services during pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum period and care of newborns have been developed; regular monitoring are carried out on the quality of services (antenatal, midwifery and neonatal care) in the regions by the staff of the Research Institute of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Center for Public Health and Reform. Since January 2017, the pilot implementation of compulsory health insurance has been launched in two regions. Since 2018-2019 years it is planned to introduce compulsory health insurance in the whole country has been started. The basic package of compulsory health insurance includes also services on reproductive health, including antenatal care and obstetrics, perinatal care.

"Reproductive Health Portal" was created to educate the population at [www.isim.az](http://www.isim.az) (Public Health and Reform Center of the Ministry of Health). Training curriculum on "reproductive health of adolescents" has been developed jointly with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Education. Trainers

were trained on reproductive health and family planning by reproductive health experts at the Public Health and Reform Center of the Ministry of Health. The training was attended by teachers of biology and life skills subject of secondary schools.

In the case of pregnant women taken into the care of the delivery service, they are examined for HIV. Similarly, when HIV-infected reproductive elderly women are transferred to the dispensary, they are questioned by us on the grounds of their pregnancy and are referred to the delivery service in accordance with the relevant recommendations. Pregnant women who are out of sight-of-service care should be exposed to expressive testing at the time of admission for birth, and when positive results are obtained, they accept a premature antiretroviral drug. For this purpose, regional antiretroviral drugs reserve have been created at the Regional Perinatal Centers and the Republican Perinatal Center. In the case of immediate delivery and HIV positive results, the antiretroviral drug is delivered to the woman, regardless of the site of delivery. As a result of this approach, HIV-infected babies born from pregnant women who have been observing for the past 3 years have not been found. Preparatory work is currently underway to include a list of countries that have been prevented by HIV transmission to the child.

**12. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve education outcomes and skills for women and girls?**

- ✓ Taken measures to increase girls' access to, retention in and completion of education, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and skills development programs (*Refer to the Article 29*)
- ✓ Provided gender equality and human rights training for teachers and other education professionals

- ✓ Increased access to skills and training in new and emerging fields, especially STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and digital fluency and literacy  
*(Refer to the Article 20)*

**13. In the last five years, which forms of violence against women and girls, and in which specific contexts or settings, have you prioritized for action?**

- ✓ Intimate partner violence/domestic violence, including sexual violence and marital rape
- ✓ Sexual harassment and violence in public places, educational settings and in employment
- ✓ Child, early and forced marriages *(Refer to the article 29 )*
- ✓ Trafficking in women and girls *(Refer to the article 28)*

To strengthen provisions addressing sexual abuse of children and child prostitution several new amendments were made to the Criminal Code in 2015, which aggravated sanctions for the coercion into actions of sexual nature, sexual relations and other actions of sexual nature with the person who has not reached of age 14, depraving actions, carried out without application of force against the person who has not reached age of 16, involving of minor in prostitution, or commitment of immoral actions. Furthermore, taking into account the fact that perpetrators of child sexual abuse are mainly in relationship of trust or authority with child, new paragraph were added on commitment of such actions by the persons bearing responsibility to educate children, teachers, training, medical workers or employee of other entity responsible for the control over children.

It specially should be noted that children without parents, or whose parents do not or cannot protect them, are acknowledged to be at heightened risk of abuse and exploitation. Unfortunately, there are always people who are ready to take



advantage of their inexperience, lack of skills. To address these questions, the government established “House of graduates” for the orphanage graduates, who are deprived of parental care at the State Social Security Service under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection in 2015. Round tables and discussions on "Protection against human trafficking and child labor exploitation” was held for the implementation of article “Raising awareness on Protection of children from Trafficking and labor exploitation" of the National Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (2014-2018) with the participation of 8-11 grade pupils of schools at the State Customs Academy.

**14. What actions has your country prioritized in the last five years to address violence against women and girls?**

- ✓ Introduced or strengthened violence against women laws, and their enforcement and implementation
- ✓ Introduced or strengthened strategies to prevent violence against women and girls (e.g. in the education sector, in the media, community mobilization, work with men and boys) (*Refer to the Article 2 and 15*)

Monitoring groups for gender-based violence and violence against children have been created at Executive Powers in all regions according to the presidential decree. In 2018, trainings were held this monitoring groups on gender-based violence and violence against children.

Within the framework of the project on Prevention and Response to Sexual and Gender Violence among Internally Displaced Persons implemented jointly by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, Operative Working Groups were set up within Monitoring Groups for gender-based violence and violence against children under the Executive Powers in 2018. One of the measures envisaged is the

preparation of the National Action Plan on elimination of gender gap. Specially invited by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Mrs. Monika Das Gupta, a demographic researcher, professor of Maryland University to Azerbaijan held meetings with representatives of several state agencies and non-governmental organizations. As a result, special document was presented to the general public for the discussion and opinion exchange in 2018. During this year, National Action Plan on Elimination of Gender Gap is expected to be prepared.

Within the “Combating Gender-based violence in Azerbaijan” project, a four-day capacity building trainings were held for the staff of eleven regional Family and Children Support Centers of the State Committee for Family, Woman and Children Affairs and NGOs accredited to provide support and shelter services to victims of domestic violence.. The main aim of the training was to advance knowledge and skills of staff of support centers in providing services for victims of GBV/DV given the findings of the capacity assessment of Family Support Centers and NGOs conducted by the UNFPA Country Office. Training introduced professionals to approximately 20 sessions on the subjects such as hidden manifestations of gender-based violence, recognition of the psychological condition of the victim, templates of forms to be filled in to build referral and response mechanisms and so on. Risk assessment and safety planning were new subjects which participants got familiarized with. In addition, participants obtained information on short-term and long-term protection orders, identifying victim/survivor’s needs and developing an adequate individual plan, coordination and collaboration with other agencies, building and increasing victim’s trust and keeping confidentiality, working with children of the victims, how to interview and listen to the children accompanying victims, as well as on how and where to refer women who are experiencing violence.

A large-scale survey on the extent of domestic violence and the strategies combating violence against women was jointly co-organized by the UNFPA, the Statistical Committee and The State Committee for Family, Women and Children

Affairs in 2017. The survey was conducted between 3229 women from 3695 households. the survey have been analyzed. The survey, as a first-ever review after the adoption of the domestic violence law in 2010, determines to which the extent the violence has spread over the past period.

Starting from 2014, "Support for Law and Justice Reforms" project are being implemented by the State Statistical Committee and The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs and the German Society for Cooperation (GIZ). Special seminars were organized in 9 regions in 2017. During the two-day workshops, 270 women and men were educated on domestic violence and women's rights and women's rights in family relationships and the book "Legislation Collection on Prevention of Domestic Violence" was distributed as an educational material to the seminar participants.

On July 6, 2018, the draft law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Making Amendments to the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Gender Equality was prepared , agreed with the relevant bodies and submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Based on Article 2 of the Presidential Decree No. 484 from 29 November 2006 of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On the Application of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Gender Equality, the authorities of the relevant executive authority are exercised by the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. However, the mechanism of this oversight in the Law has not been clearly defined. The amendment proposes to identify regulatory measures to monitor gender parity and at the same time to implement them. Also, the law proposes to incorporate the meaning of definitions such as "gender expertise", "special measures", "gender stereotypes" and gender specific statistics. The aim of the project is to improve the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Gender Equality" and to specify its implementation mechanism.

In accordance with the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 30 December 2016 on amendments to the Civil Procedure Code, resolutions on giving a long-term protection order to a victim of domestic violence are immediately implemented.

Benefits to women with more than five children are envisaged in according to the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on amendments to the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Social Benefits dated October 29, 2013.

According to the Labor Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, quotas are applied to single parents and parents with many children who bring up minors and children with disabilities at work places. Administrative liability for employers who failed to comply with this law was aggravated and, according to Article 195 of The Code of Administrative Offences, sanctions on employers were raised from 1,500AZN to 2500 AZN (1466\$).

According to the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Amendments to the Criminal Code of 31 May 2017, the sanctions were aggravated on the violation of the right of a pregnant woman or a woman who has children under the age of three, and man who grows up to three years of age alone . Thus, the sanction of Article 154.1 of the Criminal Code has been increased from “one hundred to five hundred AZN” to “thousand to two thousand AZN , sanction of Article 164 from “five hundred to one thousand AZN" to “two thousand to three thousand AZN".

Article 205 of the new Code of Administrative Offenses adopted in 2015, sanctions for pressure on a worker exposed to sexual harassment sanction was aggravated. Thus, Article 205 of the new Code of Administrative Offenses enforced the sanction of an official who committed an offense, from seventy to ninety-nine AZN, from five thousand to two thousand five hundred AZN.

Some amendments have been made to the Labor Code to improve the working conditions of workers with family obligations, following the ratification of ILO Conventions No 156 on Equal Opportunities and Equal Opportunities for Men and Women: Employees with Family Responsibilities. Thus, it is envisaged to

introduce a shortened working time under Article 91 of the Labor Code, with no more than 36 hours for parents, who raise their children up to the age of 3 years.

**15. What strategies has your country used in the last five years to prevent violence against women and girls?**

- ✓ Public awareness raising and changing of attitudes and behaviours
- ✓ Shifting the representation of women and girls in the media
- ✓ Working with men and boys

***Public awareness raising and changing of attitudes and behaviours***

With the financial support of the United Nations Population Fund, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the European Union, a three-year project has been launched in Azerbaijan to combat selective abortions of the child, to give value to girls in the family and society, and to combat gender-based violence. The project is being coordinated by the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, and the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Within the framework of the project a number of trainings were held for media representatives, young boys, young fathers, men and women. Special PSAs were prepared, "Fathers and Girls" photography exhibition was held and "Girl child burden" performance was presented on "International Day of Protection of Girls". Moreover, to mark the International Day of the Girl Child, project strove to increase the efficiency of message dissemination among wider audience via advocacy events. UNFPA in cooperation with state and non-government partners organized "Fathers and Daughters Festival" in the downtown Baku and Ganja. The aim of the open-air festival was to reinforce the father's crucial role in empowering a girl child. Festival's agenda included a number of activities for fathers and daughters to spend time together, to take care of each other. To mark International Women's Day, project holders filmed PSA with the participation of famous male

athletes who cited one after another an empowering poem to support and inspire girl children.

In addition, to complement the strategic interventions aimed at addressing the issue of the gender-biased sex selection (GBSS) a grassroots advocacy campaign in the regions was initiated to engage faith-based groups and local community leaders in the efforts to address the phenomenon. Highlighting the advancement of women rights and covering about 1700 beneficiaries, information sessions were organized in 40 mosques of various cities of Azerbaijan. During the first week of July, last year capacity building workshop for the journalist writing about gender-biased sex selection was organized in Baku. As a result of the workshop competition for best journalistic work covering gender-biased sex selection and consequences was announced. *(Refer to the Article 17 also)*

**16. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls facilitated by technology (online sexual harassment, online stalking, non-consensual sharing of intimate images)?**

- ✓ Introduced or strengthened legislation and regulatory provisions
- ✓ Implemented awareness raising initiatives targeting the general public and young women and men in educational settings

***Introduced or strengthened legislation and regulatory provisions***

The changes brought by information and communication technologies pose new risks for safety, personal development and well-being. Azerbaijan government introduced new changes to the legislation “Telecommunication” in 2016 to prevent children from the usage of web site with inappropriate content. In accordance with the amendment, operators and providers have to provide safe use of the internet on the basis of the subscriber's request for the protection of their children from information harmful to their health and development capabilities. A

new law on “The law of protecting children from information damaging their health and development was presented to the Parliament and adopted in 2018. Decision of the National Television and Radio Council on Special Rules for the programs on causing damage to the children and minors' physical, mental and spiritual development, programs broadcasting without code, including programs containing erotic and cruelty was approved to address the potential negative effects of television on children`s development in 2015.

**17. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to address the portrayal of women and girls, discrimination and/or gender bias in the media?**

- ✓ Provided training to media professionals to encourage the creation and use of non-stereotypical, balanced and diverse images of women and girls in the media “Gender equality and media freedom in Azerbaijan” project was implemented in 2018. The project aimed to promote gender equality in and through media in Azerbaijan:
- Reviewing and updating the Code of ethics for Azerbaijani journalists from a gender equality perspective;
- Raising awareness on the Council of Europe standards on gender equality and media freedom among journalists and media professionals in Baku and the regions;
- Improving the quality of media education by developing new curricula and teaching courses on gender equality and media freedom.

Within the projects trainings were done for regional journalists to teach them new rules of professional conduct. Also a new course on gender issues has been introduced for journalism and media departments of the universities.

Training-seminar on the topic “The role of the media in raising public awareness for promotion of girls’ value” was implemented in 2017 for journalists in Baku.

The main purpose of the program is to create a comprehensive environment for the stabilization of the population's reproduction level, which ensures the quality of the population.

Special programs dedicated to the issues of gender equality, women empowerment and gender based violence are broadcasted on Public TV and Regional TV channels. Besides “Common Denominator” “Center of Attention” with the initiatives of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs. “ASAN Radio” as the specialized radio in the field of public services delivery under the subordination of the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan also organizes special public discussions on gender issues in the framework of “Global Goals” program.

**18. Has your country taken any action in the last five years specifically tailored to address violence against specific groups of women facing multiple forms of discrimination?**

**YES/NO (Refer to the Article 2 and 14 )**

**19. What actions and measures has your country taken in the last five years to promote women's participation in public life and decision-making?**

- ✓ Implemented capacity building, skills development and other measures
- ✓ Encouraged the participation of minority and young women, including through sensitization and mentorship programmes
- ✓ Provided opportunities for mentorship, training in leadership, decision-making, public speaking, self-assertion, political campaigning

During 2016/2017 special projects on “Women Leadership in Self-Governance”, “Increasing women participation in municipal election” were implemented for the



promotion women leadership and encouragement women's participation in political processes in the regions. Aiming to strengthen the role and mandate of the local female politicians, German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) has been implementing "Dayaq" mentoring program in Azerbaijan . The DAYAQ approach is powerful and innovative so as it combines technical knowledge with psychological counselling and support. DAYAQ builds on the courage and experience of local women and uses these qualities to mobilise and strengthen other women. The resulting impact is twofold: on the one hand, the younger women learn from the more experienced women; on the other hand, the achievements and social status of the older women is further valued and strengthened.

Two International SHE Congresses were held in Baku, Azerbaijan in 2017-2018 . SHE Congress is the unique place where women talk, listen, learn, educate, share, empower and win. Congress focuses on empowering women to take action in the key pillars of life. It is dedicated to supporting women so they can feel confident to become true leaders. This Congresses will be conducted on regular basis each year.

100 Business Women of Azerbaijan organizes a Mentoring Walk event aimed to promote women leadership in the different organizations. Young females – MENTEES who are at junior positions in different companies as well as some female students from universities are able to ask any questions from MENTORS on business and career advises, challenges and experience and create supportive bonds that encourage growth, confidence and leadership. More than 1200 Women participated at above mentioned Congresses.

"Development and Empowerment Program for Teen girls and Young women" was implemented to increase education, leadership and organizational skills of young and teenage girls in Azerbaijan. During the workshops in the frame of this project more than 75 girls had a chance to meet local and international trainers from Germany, Canada, Turkey, Georgia, China and Sweden.

**20. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to increase women's access to expression and participation in decision-making in the media, including through information and communication technologies (ICT)?**

- ✓ Strengthened the provision of formal and technical vocational education and training (TVET) in media and ICTS, including in areas of management and leadership
- ✓ Taken measures to enhance access, affordability and use of ICTs for women and girls (e.g. free wifi hubs, community technology centers)

The “State Program on Implementation of the National Strategy for Information Society Development in Azerbaijan in the years 2016-2020” has been approved by the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated September 20, 2016. The State Program aims at implementing the main objectives and tasks and the policy set forth in terms of development of information society.

Strategic Road Map for development of telecommunication and information technologies in the Republic of Azerbaijan” was confirmed by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated December 6, 2016. All the necessary services are being provided on the basis of a single e-government infrastructure. In this regard, another innovative step introducing the so-called “caring state” concept has been taken, through which the citizens can receive in advance the information about the services they need.

“The women in IT Award” ceremony has been organized since 2017 and special awards are being presented to the most successful women working in ICT sector of Azerbaijan. This award is also seen as a way to attract more young girls to this sphere.

The Azerbaijan Women in ICT Club-Femmes Digitalies was created with the aim to uniting women working in the public and private sectors, as well as training them and expanding their career opportunities in this sphere.

Integration of electronic services, for example, "ASAN VISA", "ASAN payment", "ASAN wifi", "Electronic license", "Electronic agriculture" and other future electronic services

The E-government Training and Education Center were opened at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies to help population in acquiring skills and knowledge on E-government and IT. The center also held the special event on the topic of "The role of women in ICT" on the occasion of International Women`s Day. The event attended by about 50 young women, was aimed at heightening women`s interest in ICT and promoting career opportunities for them in this field.

Special Azercell—Barama Innovation Center as an ICT incubator was founded by Azercell. The key purpose of the project is to support young talented people and develop ICT by encouraging individual entrepreneurship for economic development in the country. The Barama Incubation Center is dedicated to commercializing innovative ideas by providing mentorship, infrastructure, and networks. Women participants there are significantly fewer than men. Of 932 start-up ideas sent to Barama since its launch in 2009, only 23% (215 ideas) were sent by women. Of the total number of Barama members (37), only 9 are women. To date, Barama has organized eight competitions, and 1,243 people have participated in them, of whom women make up only 16% of the participants. So Special programmes are being implemented at universities and colleges to attract more young girls and women.

**21. Do you track the proportion of the national budget that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (gender-responsive budgeting)?**

**YES/NO**

**22. As a donor country, does your country track the proportion of official development assistance (ODA) that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (gender-responsive budgeting)?**

**YES/NO** Not applicable

Azerbaijan International Development Agency (AIDA) was established on 14 September 2011 under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The main purpose in establishing the Agency was to support the efforts of international community in addressing social problems around the world. The dynamic economic development of the Republic of Azerbaijan over the last decade has enabled a former recipient of foreign aid to become itself a donor country.

In 2015, AIDA donated wheelchairs and other special equipment required for the rehabilitation of the disabled children at Al-Farabi National Centre for Physically Handicapped Children (ACPHC) in Pakistan. This has enabled hundreds of disabled students studying at the Center to continue their education as an integral part of the society.

Guided by the UN Sustainable Development Goal 3, AIDA also pays special attention to the healthcare sector and within the frame of strategic cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank, successfully promotes good health and well-being through the campaign on "Alliance to fight avoidable blindness" carried out in Africa. During the first phase of the campaign (2009-2016), overall more than 300,000 people were examined and more than 56,000 people who completely or partially lost their ability to see restored their vision through free sight-restoring cataract operations held in Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Lebanon, Mozambique, Mali and Niger. 177 local

ophthalmologists were engaged to capacity-building trainings during the campaign. The second phase of the programme that would last 5 years started in 2017.

AIDA also contributes to supporting Syrian people that became refugees as a result of this conflict and have sought refuge in Jordan. The Agency assisted them through provision of humanitarian aid in the form of food and first need goods in 2015 and in the form of financial assistance in 2012.

**23. Does your country have a valid national strategy or action plan for gender equality? YES/NO**

The National Development Concept “Azerbaijan 2020: Look into the Future” endorsed in 2012 envisions development of the “ National Action Plan on Gender Equality” for establishment of the effective implementation mechanism for the law on “Guarantees of gender equality”. Guided by this provision as well as the respective recommendations of the CEDAW Committee, the SCFWCA has developed the National Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in close partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Azerbaijan and local team of experts. The Draft version of the document is submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers for the approval.

**24. Does your country have an action plan and timeline for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (if a State party), or of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review or other United Nations human rights mechanisms that address gender inequality/discrimination against women?**

**YES/NO**

Special template is prepared for the work plan collecting data and writing of the report. Institutional arrangements is made to collect data and a plan is developed to write the CEDAW report on regular basis.

**Work Plan for the Preparation of the CEDAW Report is the following:**

- ✓ Formation of Inter-ministerial CEDAW Core Team/ Report Writing Group by the Decree of the president of the republic. The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs has been appointed as the lead agency for writing the report.
- ✓ Special workshops on CEDAW standards, and on data collection and indicators development are conducted for Interministerial CEDAW Core Team
- ✓ Identification of sources of information: Ministries, UN agencies, Bi-lateral agencies, Research & Academic institutions, CSOs. Sending out of requests for data. To seek data and information available from UN agencies request to be made through UNCT
- ✓ Gathering the information according to the indicators
- ✓ Writing the report according to the CEDAW articles (zero draft) by concerned departments, Ministries, other agencies and submit to secretariat.
- ✓ Meeting of Report Writing Group to review zero draft
- ✓ Revision and editing of Zero Draft and translate if needed to English by lead agency
- ✓ First Draft Report: Consultation Workshop to validate factual information in the Report and to validate the analysis as well as the political commitments made for the fulfilment of women's right to equality with GOs, NGOs, CSOs, UN agencies
- ✓ Second Report based on feedback from validation workshop

- ✓ Submit Second Draft Report to all relevant Ministries for feedback and Meeting for approval by high level authorities, in particular, approval for the political commitments and taking ownership of the report.
- ✓ Third Draft Report incorporating any feedback from Ministries if received
- ✓ Third Draft Report to Minister of Women for approval
- ✓ Finalisation of Report, printing
- ✓ Submission of Report to Cabinet/ Parliament and uploaded on the Government web page
- ✓ Submission of Report to MOFA

**25. Is there a national human rights institution in your country?**

**YES**/ NO

Office of the Human Rights Commissioner of the Republic of Azerbaijan was set up to restore the human rights and freedoms enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan and in the international treaties to which the Republic of Azerbaijan is a party. The Human Rights Commissioner was firstly elected in 2002 and headed by the women. There is also separate Human Rights Commissioner in Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (landlocked exclave) of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The activity of the Commissioner in the field of human rights protection includes protection, observance, examination of ensuring status, monitoring and analysis of human and citizens' rights and freedoms, as well as identification of gaps and violations and restoration and prevention of the human rights violations.

**26. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to build and sustain peace, promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and implement the women, peace and security agenda?**

The project directed to the preparation process of the National Action Plan for the implementation UN Security Council resolution 1325 was started on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 and concluded on 30 July 2017. The Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, representing different organizations including The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, The Presidential Administration, National Assembly, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior, the State Committee on Deals of Refugees and Internally Displaced, Women's Association for Rational Development, Women's Problems Research Association, Azerbaijan Television, has already been established with partnership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom and UNFPA Office in Baku. Special Trainings have been conducted by different international experts for the Working Group to increase capacity on the effective preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation process of the National Action Plan.

On September 20, 2018, Azerbaijan hosted the High-level Conference on Women, Peace and Security as the main event of the NATO Week. This conference led to a deeper understanding of the agenda of women's issues of peace and security, as well as consideration of gender perspectives in different political contexts including defense, security sector reform and joint security.

**27. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to increase the leadership, representation and participation of women in conflict prevention, resolution, peacebuilding, humanitarian action and crisis response, at decision-making levels in situations of armed and other conflicts, and in fragile or crisis settings?**

**(Refer to the Article 26)**



**28. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to enhance judicial and non-judicial accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and violations of the human rights of women and girls in situations of armed and other conflicts or humanitarian action and crisis response?**

- ✓ Increased access of conflict-affected, refugee or displaced women to violence prevention and protection services
- ✓ Taken measures to combat trafficking in women and children

In order to educate the population about the trafficking of human beings and its consequences, the large-scale awareness raising project titled "Do not be a victim of trafficking in human beings" was held in 2016-2017 to implement the "National Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2014-2018".

The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs published special booklet "Do not be a victim of trafficking in human beings!" and disseminated at schools and colleges to reduce the risk of trafficking in human beings in 2015.

Training materials for psychologists "Personal Identity" and "Identify yourself" were developed and distributed to prevent risk of becoming a victim of trafficking in the future in 2016.

Human trafficking issues were discussed with more than 200,000 pupils of upper secondary schools and their parents during 2013-2018.

During the period of 2014-2018, 114 victims of human trafficking were provided with relevant jobs and 126 were sent to vocational courses, and 206 were subsequently returned to their families.

**29. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to eliminate discrimination against and violations of the rights of the girl child?**

- ✓ Strengthened girls’ access to quality education, skills development and training
  - ✓ Implemented policies and programs to reduce and eradicate child, early and forced marriage
  - ✓ Promoted girls awareness of and participation in social, economic and political life
- Other

***Strengthened girls’ access to quality education, skills development and training***

The ‘Build Your Future’ project was launched in September 2016 to support local secondary school students from disadvantaged families with high intellectual capacity and a strong desire to study at university. The project covered tutorial services in order to prepare for university the students residing in 5 communities. An academic component of the project aimed to ensure entrance to local universities. A non-academic component was to achieve personal development and social integration of the beneficiaries through the provision of psychological support, trainings and participation at various events, exhibitions and study visits. Thanks to the project activities mostly girls have successfully completed the preparatory courses and passed the university entrance exams with impressive results. Based on the successful results the social investment team expanded the geography of the project, in the academic year of 2017-2018 and covered 130 secondary school students from the projects-affected communities in 5 regions of Azerbaijan.

On July-September, 2017 the "Development and Empowerment Program for Teen girls and Young women" was implemented to increase education, leadership and organizational skills of young and teenage girls in Azerbaijan. The program was realized in two cities of the country. During the workshops more than 75 girls had a chance to meet local and international trainers from Germany, Canada, Turkey, Georgia, China and Sweden. On August 7-13, in the frame of this project trainers

took a Georgia trip and conducted meetings and workshops for young and teenage Azerbaijani girls in suburban Tbilisi and Kakheti in the framework of “Reducing of early marriages through knowledge and information”.

As a result of the state programs such as “State Program on Azerbaijani Youth”, “Population development and demography”, “State Program on poverty reduction and sustainable development” and all taken measures gender equality has been achieved in the field of secondary and higher education (the ratio of educated women aged 15-24 to men of the same age is 100%) 46 % of the pupil of general education institutions and 48, 3% of the students of higher educational institutions are female.

Through tremendous support from our donors and partners - the Delegation of the European Union to Azerbaijan, USAID/Azerbaijan, the Coca-Cola Foundation, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Austrian Development Agency, UNDP is helping women in rural Azerbaijan create and further develop businesses of their own. In the framework of the project, capacity development support were provided to more than 500 women and improved their professional skills in the field of accounting, CV and resume writing, presentation skills, financial literacy, computer science, fundraising, proposal writing and organisational development. Only in Neftchala in the south of Azerbaijan, more than 800 school girls now have access to improved water sanitation ever since UNDP installed new sewerage systems in 6 communities across the Neftchala region. Nationwide, UNDP runs its flagship Women Resource Centres in 8 regions of the country. With an impressive network of more than 1000 women, these centres offer women and girls free access to library resources, internet, computer science, and many more. Over years, more than 100 women, all in all, were able to build on their entrepreneurial potential and start new businesses, through in-kind grant support, business development training and mentorship from UNDP and partners. Today, they are successfully pursuing their own businesses, additionally employing the total of 30 other women in these new establishments.

The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Rational Development for Women's Society implemented the project named "No to Early marriage" among refugees and internally displaced women and girls in Azerbaijan.

In February 2015 within the framework of the project, "Support for Strengthening the Social Well-being of Citizens" the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, and Regional Executive Powers organized awareness raising campaigns at schools on topics related to early marriages, girls' evasion from education, reproductive health.

During 2014-2015 Children and Family Support centers of the State Committee for Family Women and Children's Affairs acting in 11 regions. Over the past 3 years (2016-2018) the centers conducted 250 community mobilization activities and public meetings with the aim of preventing early and forced marriages. Enlightening letters were distributed to more than 30 thousand families with the help of local representatives of executive authorities and municipalities in each of the 11 regions. In addition, more than 2,000 copies of booklets have been published and distributed among the community population. In order to decrease the cases of early marriages Children and Family Support Centers regularly organize roundtables and discussions within the community.

On December 16, 2015, the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) co-organized an International Conference on "Strengthening of capacities to prevent early marriages" with the participations of different countries having the same problem to gain demonstrable achievements in the field of combating early marriages of countries participating. The event provided a platform to review the progress regarding implementation of the national legal and policy framework on combating early marriages and the related international commitments.

Besides the State Committee has conducted the following activities:

- In February 2015 the Committee in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, National Council of Youth Organization and “Healthy family” medical center organized the conference **“Healthy family- healthy society- strong state”**. The main purpose of the conference was to raise awareness of young generation on amendments to the “Family Code” dated from 17 October 2014 regarding the necessity of medical examination before marriage.
- In August of 2014 the Committee started a new awareness raising project under the title **“Be for the healthy life style. Say No to early marriages”** focused on combating early marriages, protecting rights of mother and child, discussion the measures on improving mother’s and child’s health care, raising awareness of population on reproductive health and healthy life style.
- On 10 July 2015 the Committee started a new awareness raising project under the title **“Our power is in our unity!”** focused on propaganda of family values, healthy life style and consequences of harmful habits, tolerance and peace in family relations, combating domestic violence.
- The Conference title **” The calls of present time: Institute of family and the unities of the religious values»** was held on 6 February 2015 within the framework of “Action plan on cooperation for 2015-2016” signed on February 6, 2015 between the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs and the State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations .

**30. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to integrate gender perspectives and concerns into environmental policies?**

Supported women's participation and leadership in environmental and natural resource management and governance

Strengthened evidence and/or raised awareness about gender-specific environmental and health hazards (e.g. consumer products, technologies, industrial pollution)

Increased women's access to and control over land, water, energy, and other natural resources

Promoted the education of women and girls in science, engineering, technology and other disciplines relating to the natural environment

The Ministry of Agriculture of Azerbaijan has presented AMAL project (Agriculture Employment Enhancement Project) - a new project aimed to increase agricultural employment. The project defines three main priorities – employment in rural areas, use of green technology innovations and improvement of entrepreneurial and professional skills. The goal of the new project is to increase interest in agriculture and prevent the flow to the city, food security, and environmental protection. The project has three objectives: promotion and development of green technologies, the formation of vocational education in the agricultural sector and the development of the business environment in the regions to create all conditions for the increasing number of women farmers in Azerbaijan. At the first stage, workshops on the formation of business ideas, agriculture and innovation, development of a business plan, development of a financial model is being conducted for a group of future entrepreneurs. The young entrepreneurs who will finish visiting workshops and training will be given subsidized loans with maximum amount of up to AZN 40,000 (23 460\$). Besides, the young entrepreneurs will be assisted to enter the markets to sell their products.

The Azerbaijan Rural Investment Project (AZRIP) was established by the government of Azerbaijan's State Agency on Agricultural Credits under the Azerbaijan Ministry of Agriculture. It is designed to invest in the rural development of five economic regions of Azerbaijan, focusing on community-based infrastructure development. The objective of the project is to improve the

living standards of communities that participate by increasing their access to infrastructure services, by the building and/or repair of roads, health clinics, schools, footbridges, electrical resources, potable water resources, and irrigation and drainage systems. The AZRIP also organizes training course in 5 regions for members of Women Development Groups and Youth Community Business Promoters. Under this programme, youth and women were trained training by expert trainers in the skills required for successful running of businesses such as making business plans, preparing project reports, getting necessary finance from banks and marketing of the products and services. This training courses are part of the Women's Economic Empowerment programme of AZRIP under which Women Development Groups comprising 88 women are being trained in five different region of Azerbaijan.

In February, 2017 - The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), signed an agreement to implement a joint project in the field of agro-biodiversity. The project has been set for a five- year period. The use of agricultural biodiversity can help make agricultural ecosystems more resilient and productive, manage climate risks and contribute to better nutrition, productivity and livelihoods. A set of measures will be taken aiming to improve the protection of native crops, support agro-biodiversity conservation, increase production and use of native crops in commercial farms and small agricultural holdings. The project seeks to enhance the state of knowledge of agro-biodiversity, build national capacities and cooperation between relevant institutions and farmers and improve access to markets for local farmers.

On 6 April 2017, with the joint initiative of the "Regional Development" Public Union of Heydar Aliyev Foundation, IDEA Public Union, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) "Development of environmentally friendly agriculture and institutional

capacities" project was implemented to establish fruit gardens for low income families. During the implementation of the project, work was carried out to amend the legislation, improve the skills and abilities of Azerbaijani farmers.

**31. What actions has your country taken in the last five years to integrate gender perspectives into policies and programs for disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation?**

- ✓ Supported women's participation and leadership, including those affected by disasters, in disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation policies, programmes and projects
- ✓ Strengthened the evidence base and raised awareness about the disproportionate vulnerability of women and girls to the impact of environmental degradation and disasters
- ✓ Promoted access of women in situations of disaster to services such as relief payments, disaster insurance and compensation
- ✓ Introduced or strengthened and implemented gender-responsive laws and policies related to disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation (e.g. disaster laws addressing vulnerability of women in disaster)

Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan in cooperation with the UN Population Fund has implemented the training project "Capacity Building for the Coordination and Implementation of the Minimum Primary Care Package for Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Areas in 2018. On the first day of the training, a simulation was conducted to check the readiness of healthcare workers to emergency situations, and first aid was provided to "victimized" pregnant women. On the second day of the training, the exchange of views was held on the medical aid, discussions were held and appropriate methodical recommendations were given to the medical staff.



### **Section Three: National institutions and processes**

- 32. What is your country's current national machinery for gender equality and the empowerment of women? Please name it and describe its location within Government.**

The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan is governmental body responsible for formulating and pursuing state policy on all aspects of the promotion and protection of children and women`s rights and their empowerment. 11 regional Child and Family Support Centers under the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs was is a very important achievement in strengthening the institutional framework to address the key gender issues in the rural areas, identify children and women in need of special care in community, provide juridical consultations, psychological aid to the women and children from vulnerable groups.

Also there is Special Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs under the National Assembly.

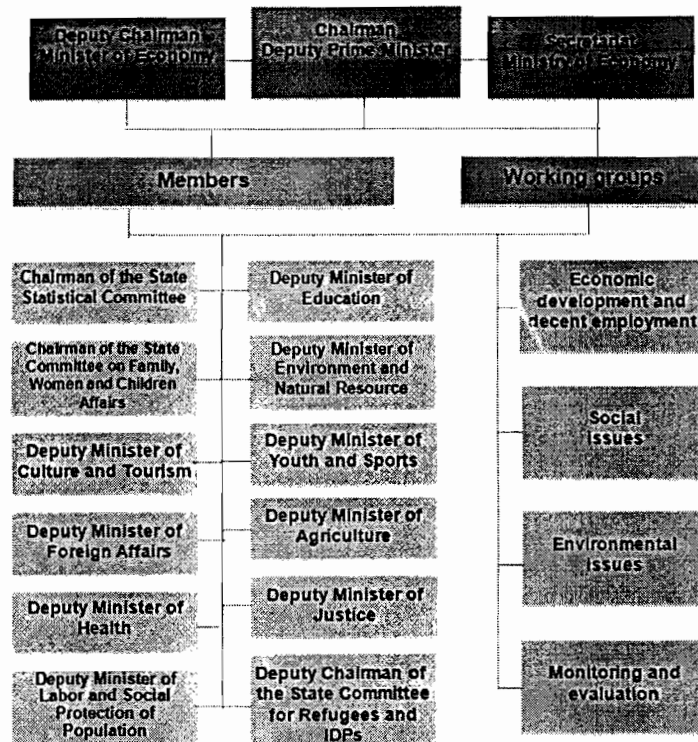
- 33. Is the head of the national machinery a member of the institutional process for SDG implementation (e.g. inter-ministerial coordinating office, commission or committees)?**

**YES/NO**

In order to coordinate the implementation of tasks entrusted to each government agency under the commitments undertaken from "2030 Agenda", the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan issued the Decree on October 6, 2016, to establish the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development of the

Republic of Azerbaijan. Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Ali Ahmadov appointed as the chairman of the Council.

The National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development of the Republic of



Azerbaijan Based on the Decree, to ensure the coordination activities of the Council on January 23, 2017, the Secretariat of the Council was established under the Ministry of Economy, of the Republic of Azerbaijan. With the purpose of efficient organization of the Council the following 4 working groups are built.

The main objectives and areas of activity of the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development consist of the following

- Identification of the national priorities of Azerbaijan until 2030 and related indicators that correspond with the global goals and targets;

-Ensuring alignment of the state programs and strategies in country's national priorities in line with SDGs;

-Preparation and submission of national annual progress reports to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

-Involvement of local and foreign experts, international organizations and scientific circles;

-Establish working groups on different areas under SDGs

Based on the Decree, to ensure the coordination activities of the Council on January 23, 2017, the Secretariat of the Council was established under the Ministry of Economy, of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

With the purpose of efficient organization of the Council the following 4 working groups with representatives of the competent state bodies were established:

-Economic growths and decent employment;

-Social issues;

-Environmental issues

-Monitoring and evaluation

**34. Are there formal mechanisms in place for different stakeholders to participate in the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?**

**YES/NO**

- a) Which of the following stakeholders participate formally in national coordination mechanisms established to contribute to the implementation of the Beijing

Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

### **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

- ✓ Civil society organizations
- ✓ Women's rights organizations
- ✓ Academia and think tanks
- ✓ Parliaments/parliamentary committees
- ✓ United Nations system

To support engagement of the civil society in the SDGs implementation, EU and UNDP, National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development, State Committee on Family, Women and Children Affairs, developed and launched the project “Promoting the role of civil society organisations in gender-sensitive SDGs implementation”.

The project’s target groups are Azerbaijani CSOs. The main objective of the project is to promote greater participation of CSOs in the gender-sensitive implementation of the national SDG agenda:

- i) to promote confidence building and dialogue between the civil society and the government around the SDGs issues;
- ii) to improve understanding and knowledge of CSOs, to apply gender-responsive approach to SDG implementation;
- iii) to increase participation of CSOs in the implementation of gender-sensitive SDG initiatives.

Special Baku Forum on Sustainable Development with the topic “Strengthening the regional partnership on Implementation of SDGs” was held on 25-26 October, 2018. This event was supported by the National Coordination Council

on Sustainable Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ministry of Economy and UN office.

**b) Do you have mechanisms in place to ensure that women and girls from marginalized groups can participate and that their concerns are reflected in these processes?**

YES/NO

Azerbaijan chose an approach that encourages coordination of activities and policies between state bodies, preserving the responsibilities of each body, for strengthening coordination across sectors by establishing a single approach Leaving no-one behind.

Another interesting aspect is effective co-operation established between public and private institutions, civil society, Academia and research institutions, and other stakeholders and mobilization of their capacities for achieving the SDG targets

The government, while acting as coordinator for the attainment of nationalized SDGs, will be facilitating and supporting SDG-focused initiatives of civil society institutions, academia, business and professional associations, other stakeholders and partners. Driven by the principle of “leaving no one behind”, which is a core commitment of the SDGs, and determined to engage all stakeholders in achieving the SDGs, the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development of Azerbaijan Republic partnered with the UN Office in Azerbaijan conducted panel discussions on SDG implementation which brought together representatives of the different groups of society (academia, civil society, women, youth, parliament). In this regard, the event on the theme of "The role of science and research in achieving SDGs in Azerbaijan" held on March 16, 2017, with the participation of representatives of academic circles and parliamentarians should be particularly noted. The event was attended by representatives of the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan and sectoral research institutes, researchers from various

higher education institutions, parliamentarians and representatives of UN agencies. On April 10, 2017, a 45-minute demonstration lesson on the theme of "SDGs: Education can change the world" was conducted in the Educational Complexes in the capital city of the country. At the event, children aged 11 to 14 were informed in detail about issues such as the role of education in changing the world, the VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW - AZERBAIJAN 33 results of good education, access to education and education level in the world and Azerbaijan, the global development goals and the role of education in achieving these goals. On 1 May 2017, a panel discussion on the theme "The Role of the Civil Society in achieving the SDGs in Azerbaijan" was conducted in partnership with the civil society. On 9 June 2017, a panel discussion on the theme "Sustainable Development Goals: Women and Progress" was conducted with the support of the Council and UN Office in Azerbaijan. These discussions stated that the government, acting as coordinator for the nationalization of SDGs, was committed to assisting and supporting SDGs-oriented initiatives of civil society institutions, academic circles, business and professional associations and other stakeholders

Young Ambassadors on SDGs was initiated within the framework of the project "Creating new bases for supporting young people's active participation in global political debate". The purpose of the 17 young Ambassadors is to promote SDGS in Azerbaijan and to encourage the participation of young people in achieving Sustainable Development goals. 9 out of the 17 Young Ambassadors are women who are engaged for the Goal 1, Goal 3, Goal 4, Gola 5, Goal 6, Goal 7, Goal 10, Goal 13, Goal 15.

**35. Is gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls included as a key priority in the national plan/strategy for SDG implementation?**

*( Refer to the 34 b)*

Yes/ No

**36. What are the top three areas in which your country has made most progress over the past five years when it comes to gender statistics at the national level?**

- ✓ Produced knowledge products on gender statistics (e.g., user-friendly reports, policy briefs, research papers)
- ✓ Developed a centralized web-based database and/or dashboard on gender statistic
- ✓ Engaged in capacity building to strengthen the use of gender statistics (e.g., training, statistical appreciation seminars)
  - ✓ Re-processed existing data to produce more disaggregated gender statistics (Census 2019 is an example)
  - ✓ Conducted new surveys to produce national baseline information (GBV costs study (2018), GBV prevalence rates survey (2017), IMAGES (2016))
  - ✓ Engaged in capacity building to strengthen the use of gender statistics (perhaps the SSC is in a better capacity to provide specific examples on this. On behalf of UNFPA, we can confirm that within the last 5 years series of international capacity building training/field visits/workshop were organized for/attended by the national personnel of the SSC and other relevant state agencies active in the field of gender sensitive data collection and analysis to contribute to sharing of knowledge and best practices in the field)

**37. Out of the following which are your country's top three priorities for strengthening national gender statistics over the next five years?**

- ✓ Use more gender-sensitive data in the formulation of policy and implementation of programmes and projects
- ✓ Conduct of new surveys to produce national baseline information on specialized topics (e.g., time use, gender-based violence, asset ownership, poverty, disability)

- ✓ Production of knowledge products on gender statistics (e.g., user-friendly reports, policy briefs, research papers)
- ✓ Statistical capacity building of users to increase statistical appreciation on and use of gender statistics (e.g., trainings, statistical appreciation seminars)

**38. Have you defined a national set of indicators for monitoring progress on the SDGs?**

Yes / No

17 goals, 87 targets and 118 indicators have been defined as final priority for Azerbaijan from the list of 17 goals , 169 targets and 242 indicators during 2018. Furthermore, on 10-19 July 2017, Azerbaijan submitted its first report at the High-Level Political Forum, which captured a set of six identified SDGs (namely SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, and 14) and SDG 17 on Strengthening the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. In this report, we shared our experiences and works done in the implementation of the fifth SDG.

**39. Has data collection and compilation on SDG 5 indicators and on gender-specific indicators under other SDGs begun?**

Yes/No

**Indicator 3.1.1:** Maternal mortality ratio

**Indicator 3.7.2:** Adolescent birth rate (aged 10–14 years; aged 15–19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group

**Indicator 4.6.1:** Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex



İcranın (cavabın) tarixi

İdarə rəisi

Reestr No

İcraçı

Diqqət! Sənəd icra olunduqdan sonra VƏRƏQƏ-nin sürəti Katibliyə qaytarılmalıdır

**Indicator 5.1.1:** Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex

**Indicator 5.2.1:** Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a ~~current or former~~ intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age

**Indicator 5.3.1:** Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18

**Indicator 5.4.1:** Percentage of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location

**Indicator 5.5.1:** Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments

**Indicator 5.6.1:** Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care

**Indicator 5.6.2:** Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15–49 access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education

**Indicator 5.a.1:** (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rightsbearers of agricultural land, type of tenure

**Indicator 5.a.2:** Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control

**Indicator 5.b.1:** Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex

**Indicator 5.c.1:** Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment

**Indicator 8.5.1:** Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities

**40. Which of the following disaggregations is routinely provided by major surveys in your country?**

Geographic location

Income

Sex

Age

Education

Marital status