

AZERBAIJAN IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA

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I. JOINING OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Azerbaijan is a member of 32 International and regional organizations: UN (March 1992), Council of Europe (March 2001), CSCE (January 1992), CIS (September 1993), Organization of Islamic Conference (1992), Council of Europe (status of special observer, June 1996), European Union (Agreement on partnership and cooperation, 1996), OEC (Organization of Economic Cooperation, 1992), Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (1992), European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (1992), World Bank (1992), UNESCO, UNICEF, World Health Organization, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRCRC), Interpol, the International Olympic Committee, etc.

Conceptual basis of Foreign policy of Azerbaijan aims to preserve and strengthen national independence and territorial integrity, develop equal mutually beneficiary relations, establish friendly links with all countries of the world. Among the prior tendencies are the relations with Eurasian neighbors including CIS countries, bordering states, traditional European trade partners as well as leading world states, members of Security Council, countries of Islamic and Turkic world. The better part of diplomatic effort of Azerbaijan is focused on the search for ways to regulate the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. Four resolutions (822, 853, 874, 884) were adopted by the UN Security Council demanding release and return of all refugees to the places of their settlements on the territories of Azerbaijan that are still under Armenian occupation. The UN 39th session of the Commission on Women adopted the resolution demanding the release of all women hostages captured during armed conflicts.

The visits of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic Heydar Aliyev to UK, France, Germany, Belgium, Russia, Turkey, China, Pakistan, Iran, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia were to implement the foreign policy of Azerbaijan. While signing the agreement "Partnership for Peace" in headquarters of NATO in Brussels, Heydar Aliyev explained the concept of Azerbaijan diplomacy in the following way: "Having taken the decision to sign the treaty we hope not only to acquire peace and stability in this region but also to bring our people in contact with values of western democracy, to create new conditions for active collaboration with all countries of world countries". Azerbaijan participated in the work of the international summits - "People Settlements and Development" in Cairo, and "Social Development" in Copenhagen, "Women's Issues" in Beijing, "Human Settlements" (Habitat II) in Istanbul and also in regional and sub regional meetings, conferences, congresses, and exhibitions.

The Republic has signed a number of international agreements and treaties, joined such important conventions as Convention on Children Rights, Convention on the Liquidation of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

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II. FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

- Promotion of the establishment of pluralistic democracy based on market economy and the rule of law;
- Conduct of an independent foreign policy aimed at the soonest restoration of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan over its territory;
 - Elimination of threats and risks to the security, political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan;
 - Peaceful settlement of the conflict with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan through negotiations within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group on the basis of the principles of the OSCE Lisbon Summit;
 - Elimination of the consequences of military aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan;
- Development of good-neighborly and mutually advantageous relations with neighboring countries;
- Promotion of security and stability in the region;
- Prevention of illegal arms and other transfers in the region;
- Adherence to existing global non-proliferation regimes and establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the Southern Caucasus;
- Demilitarization of the Caspian Sea basin;
- Integration into European and Transatlantic security and cooperation structures, including NATO, EU, WEU, CE;
- Facilitation of the development of various sectors of the country's economy with due consideration of Azerbaijan's crucial geostrategic location at the crossroads between the East and West;
- Development of the Eurasian Transport Corridor of which Azerbaijan is a part.

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III. REGIONAL AND BILATERAL DIMENSION

Azerbaijan is a country, where Europe and Asia meet and amazingly: both keep alive. Religions, cultures, architecture, and statecraft traditions – all of them are reinforcing each other and blend with national peculiarities.

Azerbaijan, in this unique capacity, keeps a balanced policy with its neighbors.

Turkey, the first nation to recognize Azerbaijan's independence after the collapse of the Soviet Union, is Azerbaijan's ally. A shared historical and cultural heritage, as well as ethnic ties between the two nations creates a most favorable environment in forging closer relations.

Bilateral relations are consistently developing in all fields. Turkey is a key supporter of Azerbaijan's integration into the European and Euro-Atlantic institutions, both in political and practical terms.

Defense cooperation between two countries has a special place in bilateral relations. Turkish assistance continues to be substantial in the modernization effort of Azerbaijan's military forces and for their interoperability with the military forces of the NATO nations, as well as for participation in PfP and "in the spirit of PfP" events, training and education.

Azerbaijan and Turkey closely work also on the energy security and supply diversification issues. Cooperation for transportation of the Caspian hydrocarbon resources is an initiative with long-term strategic consequences. Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) oil pipeline will benefit the economies of all three countries and when completed, Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum (Shahdeniz) gas pipeline will make substantial contribution to alternative energy supply channels toward Europe with possibilities of further capacity increases.

Azerbaijan is determined to further develop and expand its cooperation with Turkey, and to seek new opportunities to increase scope of these activities.

The Russian Federation is a strategically important country for Azerbaijan. Long history of living under the same state forged strong ties with the Russian people. There are extensive economic relations between the two countries and Russia remains a key trading partner of Azerbaijan.

Significant numbers of Azerbaijanis living in Russia, as well as Russian minority in Azerbaijan, are important factors in bilateral relations.

Azerbaijan and Russia often share positions on important issues, of which a good example is the status of the Caspian.

Russia plays an important role as a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group. Azerbaijan expects Russia to follow impartial policies towards the parties to the conflict and to increase its efforts in finding a peaceful solution for the conflict in the framework of international law and respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty.

These positive aspects in their relations notwithstanding, Azerbaijan considers that extensive military cooperation of Russia with Armenia and military transfers destabilize the region, at least as long as the aggressive policy of the Armenian Government continues.

With few, although important exceptions related to its security, Azerbaijan does not see fundamental obstacles to deepen its cooperation with the Russian Federation in political, economic and other spheres on the basis of sovereign equality.

Azerbaijan and Georgia enjoy strategic partnership in political and economic fields, including energy issues such as the construction and operation of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan and Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum pipelines. Azerbaijan and Georgia support each other in various organizations in the international fora, and collaborate within GUAM.

Azerbaijan and Georgia pursue policies of integration into the European and Euro-Atlantic institutions. Republic of Azerbaijan supports Georgia in these endeavors and is ready to expand cooperation with the country on security matters of common concern.

Significant population of Azerbaijani origin in Georgia plays an important role in shaping bilateral relations. Azerbaijan encourages their further integration into Georgian society, with better representation and participation in the life of Georgian state and nation.

Azerbaijan fully supports territorial integrity of Georgia and hopes for the early restoration of Georgia's sovereignty over the breakaway regions.

Developing relations with Islamic Republic of Iran is among the major objectives of Azerbaijan's foreign policy. Azerbaijan and Iran share long history of neighborhood and cultural ties. Large ethnic Azerbaijani population of Iran is an important factor in bilateral relations.

Iran is a significant trade partner for Azerbaijan and facilitates Azerbaijan's access to the otherwise isolated Azerbaijani territory of Nakhichevan. Resolution of the Caspian delimitation issues on the basis of

international law will enhance further development of Azerbaijan's good neighborly relations with Iran in all spheres of mutual interest.

Azerbaijan has cultural, linguistic and historic and cultural connections and common interests with Central Asian nations.

Given the strategic importance of the Central Asia, stability and progress of these countries is of a primary importance for Azerbaijan. Irrespective of their different policy choices in some cases, the Republic of Azerbaijan continues to develop its cooperation with them beyond the areas of fighting terrorism, transnational crimes, including human trafficking. Resolution of issues such as the return occupied territories will provide them with substantial opening capacity towards Europe and other energy markets.

Cooperation with Kazakhstan, a friendly neighbor and a littoral Caspian country, has significantly evolved in recent years. Kazakhstan's involvement in the energy projects and its interest in alternative energy export outlets brought more substance into bilateral relations. Azerbaijan expects Kazakhstan's involvement in the use of the BTC pipeline and is committed to bring the Kazakh oil to Western markets through this pipeline.

Turkmenistan is also among important trade partners of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan follows a policy of good neighborly cooperation with Turkmenistan, its Caspian neighbor, and strives to resolve disputes peacefully. Hence, Azerbaijan looks forward to continued cooperation with Turkmenistan solving the issue of delimitation in the Caspian Sea on the basis of international law.

Azerbaijan-US relations are multi-dimensional and of a strategic nature in several respects. The U.S. is a strong supporter of Azerbaijan's European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations. IPAP implementation owes much to US support.

The U.S. support for the BTC and Shahdeniz pipelines and development of Azerbaijan's energy resources has been a decisive factor for success. U.S. companies, along with those of Europe, were among the first to enter the energy sector of Azerbaijan after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

U.S. plays an important role as a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, aiming to help the resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. Azerbaijan hopes the U.S. increases its efforts in finding a peaceful solution for the conflict in the framework of international law and respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty.

US-Azerbaijan cooperation in counter-terrorism is expanding. Republic of Azerbaijan was among the first to support the United States after the terrorist attacks of September 11, and provided the necessary support for the counter-terrorism efforts.

Azerbaijan is eager to develop cooperation with the United States in political, economic, security and other spheres. This cooperation will be further enhanced by the removal of section 907 of the Freedom Support Act.

IV. ON LEGAL STATUS OF CASPIAN SEA

REFERENCE

The Republic of Azerbaijan refers to the implementation of traditional economic activities within the framework of respective sectors, on the basis of the established practices on utilization of Caspian Sea resources by the coastal states.

According to conceptual position of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Caspian Sea should be divided into respective sectors, where sovereign rights and jurisdictions of the coastal states shall be applicable. Division of Caspian Sea into sectors among the coastal states shall be realized taking into consideration the centerline principle, and by means of the established practice, generally acknowledged principles of the international law and the implementation of the sovereign rights of the coastal states of Caspian Sea.

All these can be reflected in the common document about legal status of Caspian Sea.

The problems arising from cooperation of coastal states in the issues of common interest can be based on the main document about legal status determining the inderogable sovereign rights of each coastal state over the respective sector in Caspian Sea.

Until acceptance of the common convention on the legal status of Caspian Sea, states shall implement their sovereign rights on the basis of the established practice.

Taking into account the necessity of determining legal status of Caspian Sea and its importance for the coastal states, the Working Group at the level of Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs responsible for developing the Convention on legal status of Caspian Sea was established during the meeting (Ashgabat, November 11-12th, 1996) of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Caspian Sea coastal states. The Caspian Sea Working Group (CSWG) held 15 meetings so far. The last meeting was held in Moscow on the 26-27th of October in 2004. The 16th meeting of the (XIQ) is to be held in Ashgabat.

Although positions and interests of the coastal states do not match, the negotiations, consultations and exchange of views among the Caspian Sea coastal states show that the states are supportive of the division of Caspian Sea.

The issues discussed during negotiations on the Draft Convention include division of Caspian Sea bed into sectors and utilization of seabed mineral reserves on the basis of this division, as well as usage of the water surface - navigation, protection of biological reserves, security issues, protection of the environment etc.

Along with pent lateral negotiations among the Caspian Sea coastal states, the Republic of Azerbaijan keeps negotiating on bilateral basis with Iran and Turkmenistan. In these negotiations the issues concerning the division of the seabed are discussed.

At present, in accordance with the documents ratified by the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, the coastal states, divided on the basis of centerline principle, reserve extraordinary rights for development and utilization of mineral reserves, as well as for carrying out any economic activities in the respective sectors under their ownership.

Caspian Sea coastal states signed the following bilateral and multilateral agreements so far:

- September 23, 2002: The Agreement on Division of the Adjacent areas of Caspian Sea bed between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation;
- The Agreement between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Kazakhstan Republic on Division of Caspian Sea bed between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Kazakhstan Republic, on November 29, 2001, and an appropriate Protocol attached on February 27, 2003;
- The Agreement on Division of the Northern Part of Caspian Sea bed for the purpose of implementing the sovereign rights in the usage of the seabed between the Kazakhstan Republic and the Russian Federation (July 6, 2002) and the requisite Protocol (May 13, 2002)
- The Agreement on the crossing points of Caspian Sea bed co-linear areas among the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation (May 14, 2003);
- The Framework Convention on environmental protection of Caspian Sea (Tehran, November 4, 2003).

V. MULTILATERAL RELATION

1. Azerbaijan – United Nations

Cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the United Nations was established soon after the collapse of the Soviet Union and after Azerbaijan restored its independence.

The Republic of Azerbaijan was admitted into the United Nations on March 2, 1992 and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations was opened in New-York on May 6, 1992. Beginning from the very first day of the cooperation with the United Nations Azerbaijan used the platform of the United Nations to draw the international community's attention to the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict and use United Nations potential for its peaceful settlement.

During 1993 the UN Security Council adopted four resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 on the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict. Each of the abovementioned resolutions was adopted following the subsequent occupation of Nagorny Karabakh region and other territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan by the Armenian armed forces. These resolutions reaffirmed the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, demanded immediate cease-fire, suspension of hostilities and withdrawal of all occupying forces from the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Regrettably, the provisions of the resolutions have still not been implemented.

Expressing with great concern that the humanitarian situation in Azerbaijan continued to deteriorate seriously and the number of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDP) in Azerbaijan exceeded 1 million, in 1993 at its 85th plenary meeting the UN General Assembly adopted resolution "Emergency international assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Azerbaijan" (A/RES/48/114).

During the period 1992 to 1996 the UN Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council made several statements on the conflict confirming the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Azerbaijan and supporting the OSCE Minsk Group's efforts towards its peaceful settlement.

Since 1996 the UN General Assembly in its resolution "Cooperation between United Nations and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)" reaffirms territorial integrity of Azerbaijan ("the conflict in and around the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan").

Azerbaijan takes an active part in the work of the UN General Assembly. In 1994 and 1995 at the 49th and 50th sessions of the UN General Assembly President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev headed the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In September 2000 he also joined the work of the UN Millennium Summit and delivered a speech highlighting security and globalization problems, emphasizing the Azerbaijan's contribution to the positive development of globalization as well as security issues in the South Caucasus. In September 2003 then Premier Minister Ilham Aliyev addressed the 58th session of the UNGA focusing on regional and international security threats and the national socio-economic development.

Azerbaijan maintains cooperation with a wide range of specialized UN agencies and bodies in a very active and effective manner - UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNESCO, UNCTAD, IAEA and etc.

The cooperation between Azerbaijan and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is focused on the alleviation of the conditions for children and teenagers among the refugees and IDPs. Azerbaijan was a member of the Executive Board of UNICEF for the terms 1995-1997, 1998-2000.

Azerbaijan has been actively participating in the work of other various UN bodies and agencies. Azerbaijan was a member of the Commission of the Status of Women (2000-2002). Azerbaijan is also a main sponsor of the Commission's annual resolution "Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts".

The Republic of Azerbaijan has special links with appropriate UN agencies and bodies such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Industry Development Organization (UNIDO). Different projects and programmes aimed at improving living standards, structural adjustments of economy are carried out in close cooperation with them.

Particularly, UNDP has provided extensive support to the process of post-conflict rehabilitation by funding and developing the capacity of the Azerbaijan Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency (ARRA) and the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA). UNDP support to ARRA has facilitated the effective coordination of work in the sector by the World Bank, UNDP, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the European Union (EU) Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States (TACIS) programme and others.

Azerbaijan views the transformation of its economic and political system as a high priority in its efforts to bring the country more in line with modern norms and standards. An important part of this process is the strengthening of democratic infrastructures, greater transparency and public participation in political debates

and decision-making processes. To create employment and stimulate the economy UNDP help the Government of Azerbaijan to address those institutional and policy issues most critical to the effective development and growth of private sector. In an effort to deepen structural reforms, UNDP works closely with the World Bank on a public-sector reform programme in Azerbaijan.

As a result of Armenian aggression, there are about 1 million refugees and internally displaced persons in Azerbaijan. Since 1993 the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) closely work to alleviate the conditions of refugees and IDPs.

Taking into account the critical importance of the education, science and cultural issues Azerbaijan practices a large-scale cooperation with the United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and for this purpose in 1994 according to the President Decree Azerbaijan established National Committee for UNESCO.

Different Ministries and Agencies of Azerbaijan cooperate directly with their appropriate partners within the UN system (for example, Ministry of Health and World Health Organization).

The Republic of Azerbaijan is a co-sponsor of a number of resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly and other UN bodies. The National Delegation put forward its own resolutions. Thus, the Delegation of Azerbaijan initiated the resolution "missing persons" at the 58-60th sessions of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (CHR). The provisions of this resolution adopted by CHR are based on the well-known rules of international humanitarian law and draw attention to an important issue which, in opinion of Azerbaijan is not given due attention and consideration at the international for a.

Azerbaijan actively takes part in election process by nominating its representatives to the appropriate UN agencies and bodies. As it was mentioned, Azerbaijan was a member of Executive Board of UNICEF for the terms 1995-1997 and 1998-2000, the Commission of the Status of Women in 2000-2002, the Committee on Sustainable Development in 2002-2004. Azerbaijan was elected a member of ECOSOC for the period of 2003-2005.

Past three years due to the increased attention of the international community and the UN particularly to the counter-terrorism activity, Azerbaijan makes its own contribution to the global campaign against terror. In the UN framework, Azerbaijan actively cooperates with the UNSC Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and has submitted three national reports (S/2001/1325, S/2002/1022, S/2003/1085).

Azerbaijan recognizes a vital role of the United Nations, first of all, in establishing and maintaining international peace and security, as well as in sustainable development and democratization. Azerbaijan supports the idea of the reform within the UN so as the Organization will be able to tackle with problems and challenges of the Twenty-first century.

Official documents;

[First Azerbaijan's report to UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee](#)

[Second Azerbaijan's report to UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee](#)

[Third Azerbaijan's report to UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee](#)

2. Azerbaijan – OSCE

Azerbaijan considers the OSCE to be a unique pan-European security organization and with this in mind pays special importance to expanding its activities within the Organization in all fields. We share the idea of increasing the Organization's role as a forum not only for dialogue, but for action as well, strengthening its operational and functional capacity, especially in the field of early warning, conflict prevention, crises management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

We will be able to achieve all of these aims when and if paying appropriate attention to the issue of upholding and implementing of the existing principles and decisions of the OSCE, and commitments of the participating States. Lack of necessary, immediate and well founded reaction from the participating States to the constant violations of the OSCE principles as well as to non-implementation of its decisions seriously undermines the efficacy of the Organization and its prestige, in the eyes of the participating States.

The Republic of Azerbaijan considers this issue to be a priority in the OSCE agenda. It would be impossible to ensure a comprehensive security for Europe while sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of the OSCE Member States continue to be undermined, principles making up the Helsinki Decalogue continue to be flagrantly violated thus leading to the sufferings of millions of innocent people and threats for security of participating States.

Major dates

The Republic of Azerbaijan joined the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) on January 30, 1992.

On July 8, 1992 the Republic of Azerbaijan accepted the CSCE Helsinki Final Act of 1975 by the formal signing at the CSCE Helsinki Summit.

The Republic of Azerbaijan joined the CSCE Charter of Paris on 20 December 1993.

Azerbaijan signed the Charter for European Security at the OSCE Istanbul Summit on 19 November 1999.

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3. Azerbaijan – Council of Europe

24 January, 1992 - The Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan appealed to the Council of Europe to obtain the special guest status.

10 November, 1994 - The Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE adopted Resolution 1047, commending cease-fire on Armenia-Azerbaijan battlefield.

3 February, 1995 - According to Recommendation 1247 adopted in 1994 implying right of request of three South Caucasian countries to become CoE members, the Bureau of the PACE come up with the initiative of examining the request of Azerbaijan to obtain the special guest status.

17-18 March, 1996 - In the session of the European Commission for Democracy through Law of the CoE, Azerbaijan became a member of the commission.

5-6 June, 1996 - The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. H.Hasanov visited Strasbourg and participated at the discussions in the meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the CoE concerning historical relations between Europe and Azerbaijan, foreign policy of Azerbaijan and trends of democratic changes in the country. In accordance with the results of the meeting, a Cooperation Program between Azerbaijan and CoE was developed.

28 June, 1996 - The Bureau of the PACE adopted a resolution on granting special guest status to Azerbaijan.

12-14 July, 1996 - Mr. S.Kelas, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia and Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the CoE, and Mr. D.Tarschys, Secretary General of the CoE, visited Baku and had meetings with the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Chairman of Milli Majlis and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Internal Affairs. During the meetings they discussed the prospects of participation of Azerbaijan in the CoE.

13 July, 1996 - H.E. H.Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in his letter addressed to the Secretary General of the CoE, expressed desire of Azerbaijan to become a full member of the CoE and be accessed to the European Convention on Human Rights like other member states.

11 September, 1996 - In their 573rd meeting the Ministers' Deputies of the CoE, adopted Resolution 96(32) envisaging intensification of negotiations with the Azerbaijani authorities, provision of assistance within developed cooperation programs with the purpose of facilitation of transition to democracy in Azerbaijan and accession of the country to the CoE.

January 1997 - The delegation led by Mr. M.Alasgarov, Chairman of Milli Majlis, participated in the seminar on Caucasian Problems held in Strasbourg at the invitation of Ms. L.Fisher, Chairman of the PACE.

22 April, 1997 - In the spring session of the PACE there was adopted Resolution 1119 on the conflicts in Southern Caucasus, reflecting the principle of inviolability of borders, ensuring of security in conflict areas by international peace-keeping forces, granting of wide autonomous status for Abkhazia and Nagorno-Karabakh after negotiations between all parties concerned, as well as the right of return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their home.

25 April, 1997 - The Republic of Azerbaijan signed the European Cultural Convention.

10-11 October, 1997 - H.E. H.Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, participated at the second Summit of Heads of state and government of CoE Member States in Strasbourg and exchanged views with the high-ranking officials of the CoE on democracy in Azerbaijan, relations of Azerbaijan with European institutions and stated Azerbaijan's attitude on the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.

20 January, 1998 - The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan issued a decree on "The cooperation of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Council of Europe and measures for protection of Azerbaijan's interests in Europe".

3 February, 1998 - On the legislative initiative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Milli Majlis adopted a resolution on the abolition of death penalty. Indeed, the moratorium on the execution of death penalty had been valid since 1993.

August, 1998 - In order to get detailed information on Azerbaijan, the delegation led by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe Mr. D.Tarschys visited Baku and held a number of official meetings.

16 August, 1998 - The censorship on press in Azerbaijan was abolished.

11 September, 1998 - The delegation of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) of the CoE led by Mr. M.Melshore, President of the Constitutional and Arbitration Courts of Belgium, visited Azerbaijan.

November 1998 - Mr. Kh.Hajiyev, President of the Constitutional Court of Azerbaijan, visited Strasbourg and held meetings with the Secretary General of CoE Mr. D.Tarschys and Deputy Chairman of the

Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the PACE providing information concerning the foundation and functioning of the Constitutional Court of Azerbaijan and declared the readiness of Azerbaijan to become a member of the CoE.

15-18 September, 1999 - Lord Russell-Johnston, Chairman of the PACE, visited Azerbaijan.

21 October, 1999 - The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan issued an order on "Institutional arrangement of representation of the Republic of Azerbaijan at the Council of Europe".

2-3 March, 2000 - Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. A.Azimov visited Strasbourg and addressed the meeting of the Group of Reporters on Democratic Stability in Europe (GR-EDS) of the Committee of Ministers. He held discussions with high-ranking officials of the CoE and permanent representatives of its member states on accession of Azerbaijan as a full member to the CoE.

18 March, 2000 - The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan issued a decree on "Dissemination of information on CoE's work and cooperation of Azerbaijan and the CoE".

23, 25 March, 2000 - The Political Affairs Committee of the PACE sent a list of obligations to Milli Majlis that Azerbaijan would have to assume following accession as a full member to the CoE. The document was signed by the representatives of all political parties represented in Milli Majlis.

27-28 March, 2000 - The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. V.Quliyev visiting Strasbourg submitted to the Secretary General of the CoE the above-mentioned list of obligations as well as ratification documents on joining of Azerbaijan to 8 CoE Conventions.

5-6 May, 2000 - The Chairman of Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. M.Alasgarov visiting Strasbourg participated in the Conference of Chairmen of parliaments of European states, as well as in meetings between parliamentary delegations of three South Caucasian countries and delegation of the French Parliament, parliamentarians of South Caucasian countries and the PACE.

15 May, 2000 - In the meeting of the Political Affairs Committee of the PACE held in Dublin was heard a report of Mr. J.Bomel, reporter on Azerbaijan, and was given positive opinion on accession of Azerbaijan to the CoE as a full member.

22 May, 2000 - In the meeting of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights held in Limassol, were set some conditions for Azerbaijan to become a full member of the CoE.

1 June, 2000 - In accordance with the results of the meeting in Limassol, there was concluded an agreement between the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the International Committee of Red Cross on granting access to the latter to hold meetings with prison inmates in Azerbaijan.

12-13 June, 2000 - In the meeting of the Political Affairs Committee of the PACE in Rome there was given a positive opinion on accession of Azerbaijan as a full member to the CoE.

13-14 June, 2000 - In the meeting of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights in Paris, decisions taken in Limassol meeting on the accession of Azerbaijan to the CoE were kept in force.

13-14 June, 2000 - The delegation of Italy, which chaired the Committee of Ministers of the CoE, headed by Mr. U.Ragneri, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, visited Azerbaijan. During the meetings of the delegation, which consisted also of the representatives of the Secretariat and the Committee of Ministers of the CoE, with the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Chairman of Milli Majlis, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the President of the Constitutional Court, were discussed recent steps taken for the accession of Azerbaijan as a full member to the CoE.

26-28 June, 2000 - There was held the regular session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE. At the voting with the participation of 126 parliamentarians, 120 of them voted for, 1 against with 5 remaining neutral, and consequently there was given positive opinion on the accession of Azerbaijan to the CoE.

6 September, 2000 - On behalf of the Member States of the European Union, the Chairmanship (France) made a statement on the request of Azerbaijan and Armenia for accession to the CoE. The statement expressing hope that existing political situation in these countries will develop within certain time span in accordance with the values and principles of the CoE, said that the Member States of the EU, in view of the financial and political aspects of the process of joining of the two, considered it expedient to send the analysis done by the Secretariat on the issue to the GR-EDS for being examined at its meeting that would be held on 11 September, 2000 and to submit the relevant report of the latter to the Committee of Ministers for consideration.

6 September, 2000 - At their 719th meeting, the Deputies:

1) Invited the GR-EDS to examine the request of Azerbaijan and Armenia for membership to the CoE at their meeting on 15 September, 2000 and to present a report on the issue.

2) Agreed to complete at their 724th meeting on 4 October, 2000 the consideration of the issue on the basis of the report of the GR-EDS.

15 September, 2000 - The GR-EDS discussed the accession of Azerbaijan and Armenia to the CoE and decided to continue these discussions at their meeting on 29 September.

10 October, 2000 - Mr. V.Guliyev, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, visited Strasbourg and addressed the meeting of the Committee of Ministers. Mr. V.Guliyev in his meetings with the Ambassadors of the Member States, Secretary General of the CoE Mr. W.Schwimmer, Chairman of the PACE Lord Russell-Johnston, Director-General for Political Affairs of the Secretariat of the CoE Mr. Furer, Secretary of the Committee of Ministers Mr. T.Davis, discussed a number of issues of mutual interest.

2-4 November, 2000 - Mr. M.Mammad-Guliyev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. I.Farzaliyev, Deputy Head of International Relations Department of Milli Majlis, participated in the meeting of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and in the Conference of Ministers on Human Rights in Rome on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of signing the European Convention on Human Rights.

7-9 November, 2000 - In their 107th meeting the Committee of Ministers adopted Resolution 14(2000) on the invitation of Azerbaijan to become a member of the CoE. The document reflected the following decisions:

1. Invitation of Azerbaijan to become a member of the CoE and to join its Statute;
2. Determination of the Azerbaijani delegation to the PACE as 6 parliamentarians in number;
3. Determination of the amount of various financial payments of Azerbaijan to the CoE in accordance with the Annex of the Resolution.

In the decision "Armenia and Azerbaijan: Invitation to become members of the CoE" that was adopted in that very meeting, were enshrined the following provisions related to Azerbaijan:

1. To regularly observe democratic development of the country, if necessary by the means of working groups established to this end, in accordance with the correspondence between the Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan in October, 2000;
2. To request the Government of Azerbaijan to submit within a month a reply report to critical points in the statement on the initial comments and conclusions made by the International Election Observation Mission and to correct frauds mentioned therein;
3. To establish a monitoring group of Deputies which will report prior to the 737th (17 January 2001) meeting of the Ministers' Deputies to be held before the next session of the PACE;
4. To invite the Venice Commission to assist the Azerbaijani authorities with the purpose of reforming the Constitution, electoral law and law on media in conformity with the CoE standards;
5. To request the Azerbaijani Government to strengthen joint efforts with the Armenian Government for achievement of the peaceful resolution of the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh in accordance with the obligations taken before the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly.

20 November, 2000 - In their 730th meeting the Ministers' Deputies made the following decisions concerning Azerbaijan:

1. To invite the GR-EDS to include the item titled "The observation of democratic development of Armenia and Azerbaijan" into the agenda of all its meetings prior to the next session of the PACE to be held in January, 2001;
2. To establish the Monitoring Group (GT-SUIVI.AGO) comprising the Permanent Representatives of Austria, France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Romania, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Germany (in the capacity of the chairman of the GR-EDS) under the chairmanship of the Permanent Representative of Italy.

3-4 January, 2001 - The delegation led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia Mr. I.Berzinsh, Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the CoE, including the Ambassadors of Latvia, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden in the said organization visited Baku. The delegation had meetings with the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Chairman of Milli Majlis, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the President of the Constitutional Court and other officials.

6-9 January, 2001 - The GT-SUIVI.AGO headed by Mr. P.E.Ago, Permanent Representative of Italy at the CoE, and consisted of the ambassadors of the Netherlands, Sweden, Turkey and Greece visited Baku and had meetings with the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Chairman of Milli Majlis, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the President of the Constitutional Court, the Chairman of the Central Election Commission and other officials.

17 January, 2001 - At their meeting the Ministers' Deputies adopted a decision to admit the Republic of Azerbaijan as a full member to the CoE.

25 January, 2001 - There was held an official ceremony in Strasbourg devoted to the accession of the Republic of Azerbaijan as a full member to the CoE. A broad delegation under the leadership of H.E. H.Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, attended the ceremony.

24-27 April, 2001 - There was held the plenary session of the PACE. For the first time, the Azerbaijani delegation to the PACE participated in the session as a full member. During the session, the written statement

titled "The recognition of genocide committed by Armenians to the Azerbaijani population" signed by 29 representatives of 9 countries represented in 5 political groups of the PACE, and proposals for the recommendation titled "The prisoners and hostages of war kept in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh" signed by 20 representatives of 14 countries were disseminated as the official documents of the PACE. In the mentioned documents were particularly emphasized such issues as the massacre of Khodzaly inhabitants by Armenians, the occupation of 20 percent of Azerbaijan's territory by Armenia, the fact of holding 783 Azerbaijanis, including children, women and elderly as hostages in Armenia and occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

10-11 May, 2001 - There was held the 108th session of the Committee of Ministers of the CoE in Strasbourg. For the first time, Azerbaijan was represented there in the capacity of the Minister of Foreign Affairs by Mr. V. Guliyev.

4-7 July, 2001 - The Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Monitoring Group for Azerbaijan and Armenia ("Ago" group) visited Azerbaijan.

7-8 November, 2001 - 109th session of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers was held in Strasbourg. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Mr. V. Guliyev attended the session.

27-28 March, 2002 - The delegation of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance made a visit to Azerbaijan.

8-9 April, 2002 - Mr. A. Valionis, Chairman of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, paid a visit to Azerbaijan.

2-3 May, 2002 - 110th session of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers was held in Strasbourg. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Mr. V. Guliyev attended the session.

15-16 July, 2002 - Ms. L. Polfer, Chairman of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers and Deputy Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Luxemburg, paid a visit to Azerbaijan.

14-20 September, 2002 - The Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner Mr. A. G. Robles visited Azerbaijan.

6-7 November, 2002 - 111th session of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers was held in Strasbourg. The Republic of Azerbaijan was represented there by the Permanent Representation.

24 November-6 December, 2002 - The delegation of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) made its first circular visit to Azerbaijan.

22-23 January, 2003 - The 5th Ministerial Conference of Gender Equality was held in Skopje. The Republic of Azerbaijan was represented there by the Chairwoman of the State Committee on Women's Issues Ms. Z. Guliyeva.

23 January, 2003 - The meeting of the Committee of Ministers Enlarged Bureau on the fulfilment of the obligation on settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno Karabakh conflict was held. Azerbaijan was represented there by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. A. Azimov.

27 January, 2003 - The meeting of the Bureau of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly was held. The head of the Azerbaijani delegation to PACE Mr. Ilham Aliyev was elected as a member of the Bureau who, in accordance with the rules of procedure of PACE, holds the post of PACE's vice-president at the same time.

16-19 February, 2003 - The President of the European Court of Human Rights Mr. L. Wildhaber made a visit to Azerbaijan.

17-18 February, 2003 - The Azerbaijani delegation led by Mr. P. Byulbyulogly, Minister of Culture, took part at the conference of the European Ministers of Culture on "New roles and tasks of ministers of culture in having intercultural dialogue" held in Strasbourg.

2 April, 2003 - The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe elected the judge of the European Court of Human Rights from the list of candidates nominated by Azerbaijan for the first time ever. Thus, Mr. Kh.Hajiyev was elected to the post by 83 votes.

14-15 April, 2003 - The Minister of Education of Azerbaijan Mr. M. Mardanov made a visit to the Council of Europe at the invitation of Mr. W. Schwimmer, Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

14-15 May, 2003 - 112th session of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers was held in Strasbourg. The Republic of Azerbaijan was represented there by the Permanent Representation.

9-12 July 2003 - The Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Monitoring Group for Azerbaijan and Armenia ("Ago" group) visited Azerbaijan.

20-22 October, 2003 - The Azerbaijani delegation led by Mr. P. Byulbyulogly, Minister of Culture, took part at the conference of the European Ministers of Culture in Opatija, Croatia.

5-6 November, 2003 - 113th session of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers was held in Chisinau. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Mr. V. Guliyev attended the session.

6-7 November, 2003 - The Minister of Education of Azerbaijan Mr. M. Mardanov took part at the 21st session of the Standing Committee of European Ministers of Education held in Athens.

24-26 November, 2003 - The Minister of Justice of Azerbaijan Mr. F. Mammadov attended the autumn session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe at the invitation of presidency of the Congress. In the framework of the visit Mr. Mammadov had meetings with Mr. E. Logia, Italian Minister for Regional Affairs, Mr. W. Schwimmer, and Secretary General of the Council of Europe and other high ranking officials of the Council.

12-14 January, 2004 - The delegation of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) made a two-day ad hoc visit to Azerbaijan.

1-4 February, 2004 - The Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Monitoring Group for Azerbaijan and Armenia ("Ago" group) visited Azerbaijan.

24 March, 2004 - The Director General for Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe Mr. G. De Vel visited Azerbaijan.

7-9 April, 2004 - The Secretary General of the Council of Europe Mr. W. Schwimmer paid a visit to Azerbaijan.

28-29 April, 2004 - The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. I. Aliyev visited Strasbourg, addressed the session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and had meetings with a number of high ranking officials of the Council. The President of PACE presented the diploma and the medal of the honorary member of PACE to the Azerbaijani President.

12-13 May, 2004 - 114th session of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers was held in Strasbourg. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Mr. E. Mammadyarov attended the session.

17-18 May, 2004 - The Minister of Education of Azerbaijan Mr. M. Mardanov took part at the Conference of Ministers of Education of the South Caucasus countries held in Strasbourg under the auspices of the Council of Europe.

17-20 May, 2004 - The Chairman of the Parliament of Azerbaijan Mr. M. Alasgarov attended the Conference of the Chairpersons of European Parliaments on "Civil Europe - involvement of parliaments and citizens" held in Strasbourg.

29 June-2 July, 2004 - The Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Mr. B. Haller visited Azerbaijan.

20 July, 2004 - The meeting of the Steering Committee of the CoE-EC Joint Programme was held in Tbilisi. The Azerbaijani delegation at the meeting was led by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. M. Mammad-Guliyev.

27 September-1 October, 2004 - The Ombudsperson of Azerbaijan Mrs. E. Suleymanova visited Strasbourg to hold meetings at the Council of Europe.

30 September-1 October, 2004 - The Minister of Justice of Azerbaijan Mr. F. Mammadov paid a visit to the Council of Europe at the invitation of presidency of the Council's leadership.

6-13 October, 2004 - Mr. J. Petersen, Chairman of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, paid a visit to Azerbaijan in the framework of his tour to the South Caucasus countries.

18-21 November, 2004 - The Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Monitoring Group for Azerbaijan and Armenia ("Ago" group) visited Azerbaijan.

8-9 December, 2004 - The Azerbaijani delegation led by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. M. Mammad-Guliyev participated at the stakeholders' meeting for discussion and adoption of the evaluation report of the CoE-EC Joint Programme on Promotion and strengthening democratic stability and prevention of conflicts in the South Caucasus region.

9-10 December, 2004 - A conference dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention was held in Vroslav. Azerbaijan was represented there by the Deputy Minister of Culture Mrs. S. Mammadaliyeva.

25 January, 2005 - The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe at its January part-session adopted Resolution 1416(2005) and Recommendation 1690(2005) on the conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference.

3-4 February, 2005 - At the invitation of the Council of Europe's leadership the Minister of Communications and Information Technologies Mr. A. Abbasov visited Strasbourg to take part at the first meeting of the Multilateral Experts Committee on Information Society. In the framework of the visit he had several meetings with the Council's officials.

16-17 May, 2005 - The third Summit of Heads of state and government of the Council of Europe Member states was held in Warsaw. Azerbaijan was represented there by the delegation led by the President of Azerbaijan Mr. I. Aliyev.

16-20 May, 2005 - The delegation of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) made an ad hoc visit to Azerbaijan.

13-18 June, 2005 - The delegation of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe led by the Vice-President Mr. H. Skard visited Azerbaijan.

15-16 June, 2005 - The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Mr. E. Mammadyarov made a visit to Strasbourg during which he had meetings with Mr. T. Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr. B. Haller, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and other officials.

30 June-1 July, 2005 - The Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Monitoring Group for Azerbaijan and Armenia ("Ago" group) visited Azerbaijan.

22-23 August, 2005 - The President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Mr. R. Linden visited Azerbaijan.

4-6 September, 2005 - The Secretary General of the Council of Europe Mr. T. Davis visited Azerbaijan.

15-16 September, 2005 - The 5th Colloquium of Ministers of Culture in the framework of the STAGE Programme of the Council of Europe was held in Kyiv. Azerbaijan was represented there by the Minister of Culture Mr. P. Byulbyulogly.

27-28 October, 2005 - The Deputy Minister of Culture of Azerbaijan Mrs. S. Mammadaliyeva attended the Conference of the European Ministers of Culture held in Faro (Portugal).

17 November, 2005 - 115th session of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers was held in Strasbourg. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Mr. E. Mammadyarov attended the session.

12-14 February, 2006 - The delegation of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe led by the President Mr. G. Di Stazi visited Azerbaijan.

4-6 May, 2006 - The Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner Mr. T. Hammerberg visited Azerbaijan.

18-19 May, 2006 - 116th session of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers was held in Strasbourg. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Mr. E. Mammadyarov attended the session.

13-14 June, 2006 - The Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Monitoring Group for Azerbaijan and Armenia ("Ago" group) visited Azerbaijan.

25-29 June, 2006 - The delegation of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe led by the President Mr. H. Skard visited Azerbaijan.

6-7 September, 2006 - The delegation of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe led by the Vice-President Mr. I. Micallef visited Azerbaijan.

20-30 November, 2006 - The delegation of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) made the second circular visit to Azerbaijan.

15 December, 2006 - Mr. A. Garayev, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan, took part at the Ministerial Conference in Bucharest to launch the Kyiv Initiative Regional Programme.

2-4 February, 2007 - Mr. J. Laurens, Director General for Political Affairs of the Council of Europe Secretariat, visited Azerbaijan.

10-11 May, 2007 - 117th session of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers was held in Strasbourg. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Mr. E. Mammadyarov attended the session.

4-7 July, 2007 - The Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Monitoring Group for Azerbaijan and Armenia ("Ago" group) visited Azerbaijan.

7-10 July, 2007 - The President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Mr. R. Linden visited Azerbaijan.

2-8 September, 2007 - The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Mr. T. Hammarberg visited Azerbaijan.

2-4 April, 2008 - The Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Monitoring Group for Azerbaijan and Armenia ("Ago" group) visited Azerbaijan.

27-28 April, 2008 - H.E. Jan Kubis, Foreign Minister of Slovakia and Chairman of Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe paid a visit to Azerbaijan.

03-04 May, 2008 - Jean-Paul Costa, Chair of the European Court of Human Rights visited Azerbaijan.

7 May, 2008 - 118th session of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers was held in Strasbourg. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Mr. E. Mammadyarov attended the session.

4. Azerbaijan – NATO

Information on Azerbaijan-NATO cooperation

Azerbaijan was among the first countries from the former Soviet Union, who joined the Partnership for Peace (PFP) programme of NATO. The President of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Heydar Aliyev signed the PFP Framework Document on the accession to PFP during his official visit to NATO HQ on 4 May 1994.

In order to determine the areas of future cooperation with NATO, Azerbaijan prepared the PFP Presentation document and submitted it to the Alliance in April 1996. Bilateral partnership incorporated such spheres as military cooperation, defense modernization, democratic control of the armed forces, political consultations on security issues, peace support operations, security sector reform, civil emergency planning, security related scientific, economic and environmental cooperation.

Since 1996, on the basis of its Presentation Document and Partnership Work Programme prepared by NATO, Azerbaijan has been annually adopting Individual Partnership Programme (IPP), which includes all joint activities and events to be attended by national military and civilian representatives. Annually expanding the scope of its Individual Partnership Programme, Azerbaijan participated in more than 200 NATO/PFP activities and events in 2008 and intends to increase this number further.

In 2006, Government of Azerbaijan increased financing of the PFP Programme from 300 000 USD to 850 000 USD. In 2007 this figure was increased to 1.8 million USD. In 2008 and 2009 years this amount was the same - approximately 2 million USD.

In 1997 Azerbaijan joined the Planning and Review Process (PARP), being one of the firsts from CIS countries. PARP related activities were aimed at engaging Azerbaijan more closely to NATO's defense planning for operations. Since then Azerbaijani Armed Forces are undertaking increasing number of so-called Partnership Goals (PGs) based on two-year cycles. PGs are focused on achieving military interoperability with NATO troops through introduction of NATO's political-military, military, training and technical standards.

In 2002 Azerbaijan proposed to extend PFP cooperation to broader security sector issues such as the defense against terrorism, the modernization of the State Border Service and transformation of Internal Troops. At the moment, Azerbaijan has undertaken about 53 Partnership Goals mainly related to national defense and security sectors.

In 2002 NATO/EAPC Prague Summit adopted Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP) instrument in order to improve cooperation with the Partner nations. In May 2003 Azerbaijan formally applied for joining the IPAP. In May 2004 President of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev officially submitted the IPAP Presentation Document to the Alliance, which included comprehensive information on the current status of political, economic and security developments in Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan and NATO elaborated and approved the Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP) in May 2005, on the basis of this Presentation Document. The IPAP covers all major political, defenses, security and security related economic, scientific and environmental spheres. IPAP implementation and update is based on two-year cycles and annual assessment reports, which are considered at the level of North Atlantic Council +Azerbaijan.

In August 2007 Azerbaijan has completed first IPAP cycle. The new IPAP document was approved in March 2008. Since the adoption of the first IPAP of Azerbaijan in May 2005 real steps have been made towards its successful implementation, including in the sphere of security sector reform. Taking together all the fields of cooperation, progress of Azerbaijan on implementation of IPAP has been considerable.

- Special Presidential decree was issued to task the State Commission, which is composed of the heads of various Ministries, with IPAP's implementation and defining resources. Since then budget allocations for IPAP and PFP activities have considerably increased.

- The progress has been made in the implementation of the most IPAP goals, including those events, which were added and amended during the modification of the IPAP document in autumn 2006. The work has also begun on the elimination of the shortcomings in the field of controlling, directing and planning of the IPAP process.

- Work on the National Security Concept has been completed and it was subsequently endorsed by the Government and Parliament on 19 May 2007. The work on the Military doctrine is close to finalization. These two fundamental documents will guide the Strategic Defense Review of the security sector.

- Despite the on-going conflict, the process of gradual transformation of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan has been started. Structural changes on the basis of NATO standards are under way within MOD,

General Staff and army units. It is planned to complete this process in 2009 integrating needs and requirements identified within the Strategic Defense Review (SDR).

- Appropriate measures are being taken for gradual transformation of the State Border Service (SBS) from military structure into a law-enforcement type of organization. Considerable work has been done for the reinforcement of technical capabilities and improvement of human resources management within the State Border Service.

- Azerbaijan has already integrated NATO standards into the national military education and training system.

- Amendments to the national legislation are being prepared on the establishment of practical policy related to the career development of civilian personal within the defense system. This will contribute to further strengthening of civilian control on the armed forces.

- Cooperation in the field of Public Diplomacy and Science, as well as the Trust Fund Project on the cleaning of the unexploded munitions has been continuing with success. The foundation of the Euro-Atlantic Centre within the Azerbaijan State Library in Baku, official registration of NISA (NATO International School of Azerbaijan) as an NGO, the beginning of the implementation of the project of Melange conversion and the conclusion of the second cycle of NATO PFP Saloglu Project (the cleaning of 600 hectares of land of Agstafa region of Azerbaijan from unexploded artillery shells and other ammunition) are the main issues in this direction. Currently the third phase of this project has been started.

Deriving from the principle of indivisibility of security in the Euro-Atlantic area, the Republic of Azerbaijan participates in NATO-led peacekeeping operations sanctioned by the UN SC resolutions.

During 1999-2008 years Azerbaijan participated in the NATO-led operation in Kosovo (KFOR), but in 2008 withdrew its forces from that region after its unilateral declaration of independence.

Azerbaijan makes military and non-military contributions to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. Since 20 November 2002, 22 personnel of peacekeeping battalion of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces were deployed for operations in Afghanistan. On 15 January 2008 the number of Azerbaijani military servicemen was increased to total 45 and 19 February 2009 this number was redoubled again. Currently a full company of 90 members of Azerbaijani Armed Forces serve within the ISAF.

Republic of Azerbaijan is following closely the future development of Partnership with NATO and continuously contributes to its expansion to wider areas.

With regard to the future of the Partnership and the policy of NATO in the region, Azerbaijan considers that the security in Euro-Atlantic area depends on improvement of the capacity of crises management, creation of secure transport corridors, and development of energy security. All of these are essential for the development of Partnership as an institution. The development of Partnership has to give opportunity for the development of security cooperation with NATO on the basis of 3 pillars: political unanimity, legal harmony, practical interoperability.

Against the background of the increasing global role of NATO and on the basis of the principles provided for in the Partnership for Peace Framework Document, such development has to ensure security guarantees to Partners, which actively share European values and respect international law. Providing security guarantees would prevent the violation of international law and promote stability in international relations.

Documents:

Final Communiqué -Meeting of the North Atlantic Council at the level of Foreign Ministers held at NATO Headquarters, Brussels -December 2008

NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme-April 2008

Bucharest Summit Declaration - 3 April 2008

Riga Summit Declaration - 29 November 2006

Istanbul Summit Communiqué

Basic Document of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council- Sintra, Portugal, 30 May 1997

Partnership for Peace: Framework Document issued by the Heads of State and Government participating in the Meeting of the North Atlantic Council –Brussels, 10 January 1994

Partnership Action Plan against Terrorism

5. Azerbaijan – European Union

One of the foreign policy priorities of Azerbaijan is cooperation with the European Union (www.europa.eu.int).

Strategic location of Azerbaijan at the crossroads of Europe and Asia explains strong interest of the European Union member-states in developing political and economic relations with Azerbaijan.

In 1998 the EU nominated its Special Envoy to Azerbaijan and Azerbaijan established its Permanent Mission to the European Communities in the year 2000.

Today Head of the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to EU is Arif Mammadov, and Special Envoy of European Commission to Azerbaijan is Antonius de Vries.

In July 2003 the EU appointed a Special Representative to the South Caucasus whose mandate is to (a) to assist the countries carry out political and economic reforms, notably in the fields of rule of law, democratization, human rights, good governance, development and poverty reduction; (b) in accordance with existing mechanisms, to prevent conflicts in the region, to assist in the resolution of conflicts, and to prepare the return of peace, including through promoting the return of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs); (c) to engage constructively with key national actors neighboring the region; (d) to encourage and to support further cooperation between States of the region, in particular between the States of the South Caucasus, including on economic, energy and transport issues; (e) to enhance EU effectiveness and visibility in the region.

Since 1991 Azerbaijan has received ECU 333 mln. Worth of EU humanitarian, technical, food and emergency assistance.

On June 22, 1999 Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (signed on April 22, 1996 in Luxemburg) between the EU member-states and Azerbaijan entered into force, thus signifying a higher level of cooperation between our countries.

The objectives of the Agreement are as follows:

To provide an appropriate framework for the political dialogue between the parties allowing the development of political relations

To support Azerbaijan's efforts to consolidate its democracy and to develop its economy and to complete the transition into a market economy

To promote trade and investment and harmonious economic, social, financial, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation

As envisaged by the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), Cooperation Council (meets annually) determines major guidelines of cooperation and Cooperation Committee (meets annually) assists the Council in its activities by giving recommendations. Subcommittee on Trade and Economic Issues works under the authority of the Cooperation Committee and discusses trade, investment and other issues related to economic cooperation under the PCA.

So far 5 meetings of the Council (on October 12, 1999, October 10, 2000, October 30, 2001, October 1, 2002, September 30, 2003) and 4 meetings of Committee (on March 27, 2000, 25 June 2001,

12 July, 2002, 09 June 2003) and 4 meetings of Subcommittee (on July 21, 2000, 30 April 2002, March 14, 2003, April 22, 2004) have been held.

The EU supports the economic reforms in Azerbaijan by transfer of relevant technical assistance and expertise through TACIS program. (www.tacis.org) TACIS (Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States) program was established in 1991 with the purpose to provide technical assistance to the 12 countries of the former Soviet Union and Mongolia. Under the TACIS indicative program for Azerbaijan, priority is given to the three areas of cooperation: infrastructure, private sector and human resources development. The key TACIS multi-country network projects related to Azerbaijan are TRACECA and INOGATE

TRACECA (Transport corridor Europe - Caucasus - Asia) was established in May 1993 at the Conference in Brussels where ministers of trade and transport of the 8 original founder states (5 Central Asian states and 3 South Caucasus states) met (www.traceca.org). It aims to support their political and economic independence by enhancing their capacity to access European and world markets through alternative transport routes and to encourage further regional cooperation among the partner states.

On the initiative of the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Georgia and with the support of EU TACIS-TRACECA program an international conference on "Restoration of the Historic Silk Road" was held on

September 8, 1998 in Baku. Representatives of 32 countries and 12 international organizations took part at the conference. The most important achievement of the conference was the signing by the heads of delegations of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Moldova, Romania and Bulgaria of the "Basic Multilateral Agreement on International Transport for the Development of the Transport Corridor Europe - Caucasus - Asia" (Basic Agreement) and Technical Annexes to the Basic Agreement on:

- international rail transport
- international road transport
- international commercial maritime navigation
- customs procedures and documents handling

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan is the Depositary of the Basic Agreement and its Technical Annexes.

To regulate the issues of implementation and the application of the provisions of the Basic Agreement the member- states agreed to establish an Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) consisting of highest intergovernmental authorities of the member-states or their representatives with full authority to take decisions under the Basic Agreement.

On February 21, 2001 official opening of the office of the Permanent Secretariat of IGC TRACECA in Baku was held during the visit of the EU high officials: Minister of Foreign Affairs, representative of Swedish presidency in EU Anna Lindh, the Commissioner for External Relations Christopher Patten, Secretary-General/High Representative of Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana.

TRACECA project envisages implementation of 25 technical assistance and 11 investment projects with Azerbaijan being a party to 26 of them with total value exceeding 100 mln euro.

INOGATE (interstate oil and gas transportation to Europe) is the main regional initiative within the framework of EU assistance to newly-independent states. (www.inogate.org) The signing of the Umbrella Agreement on establishment of interstate oil and gas transportation framework in Kiev in July 1999 by 15 states (including Azerbaijan) laid the legal basis of INOGATE.

The first phase of the program stipulates the implementation of 10 projects with total value exceeding 50 mln ECU, of which 5 projects are directly related to Azerbaijan. INOGATE opens up new perspectives for Azerbaijan as well as other newly-independent states to implement trans-boundary projects and acts as a catalyst for attracting investment from international financial institutions and private investment funds, based on advantages of international agreements on transit of hydrocarbon resources.

6. Azerbaijan – OIC

The development of cooperation between Azerbaijan and the OIC is a prioritized direction in our foreign policy and has a strategic importance. Since regaining its independence, our country was the first among the CIS countries that appealed to become a member of the OIC and in 1991 has joined the organization. At that time, with limited and poor informative capabilities, it was one of the crucial issues for Azerbaijan, which was exposed of the aggression by the Armenia, to get a support from Islamic Ummah for his just position and to convey grievous consequences to the world community. The delegation from the OIC already visited Azerbaijan in 1991 to study the problem and explore the peaceful means for settlement of the conflict. Until then, the OIC had had consultations with the UN, Armenia, Turkey and Russia. Non-constructive position of official Erevan put an end to any consultations on the issue and the unanimous position of the OIC on the aggression by Armenia against Azerbaijan had been formed.

However, in September 1992, the final document of regular meeting of the OIC foreign ministers at the session of the UN GA included a relevant paragraph on the “Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict”, but it was impossible to benefit duly the resources of the OIC and effectively pursue and express the interest of Azerbaijan within the organization at that time. Since the May 1994, after giving an ambassador of Azerbaijan to Saudi Arabia a mandate of permanent representative of our country to the General Secretariat of the OIC, according to the relevant order of Nationwide Leader Haydar Aliyev, our embassy started to effectively work with the General Secretariat of the organization and its relevant bodies, including the Islamic Development Bank in Jeddah.

Also, the visit of Nationwide Leader Haydar Aliyev to Saudi Arabia in July 1994, his Umrah pilgrimage of Holy Mecca and productive meetings during the visit increased the interest of all Islamic nations towards our country, creating a foundation for the further development of cooperation between Azerbaijan and the OIC. The meetings were held by Nationwide Leader with the OIC Secretary General in Baku in November 1994, his participation in the 7th Summit of Heads of States and Governments of the OIC member countries in Casablanca and his speech upon the kind request of the OIC Secretary General as well as some member countries on behalf of Asian countries group have strengthen the position of Azerbaijan within the organization. As a result, for the first time in the history of the OIC Summits, the political resolution on the “Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict” was adopted in Casablanca and since then it was achieved to regularly include the issue of the “Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict” into the list of problems being discussed in the framework of the cooperation between the UN and the OIC. Also, as a result of purposeful activity with both the OIC General Secretariat and member countries, the relevant resolutions on the economic assistance to Azerbaijan and on the destruction and desecration of Islamic historical and cultural relics and shrines in the occupied Azerbaijan territories, resulting from the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan, were included to the agenda of the OIC and adopted unanimously by the member countries in the following Summits.

It must be noted that by strengthening and changing the name of political resolution with tireless efforts of Azerbaijan side and adopting it under the title of “resolution on the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan” for the first time at the 24th OIC Foreign Ministers Conference in Jakarta in December 1996 and at the 8th Summit of the Heads of States and Governments of member countries of the OIC in Tehran in December 1997 played an important role in bringing the just position of Azerbaijan to the attention of the world community.

Let us remind that despite strongly condemning the Armenian aggression by the member countries, demanding the withdrawal of occupation forces from the occupied Azerbaijan territories immediately without any reservation, the regular reports by Secretary General on the problem, including relevant provisions into the final statements of meetings in the framework of the OIC, assessment of various illegal elections in the so-called “Nagorno-Karabakh republic” as unrecognized an a complete contradiction with the norms of international law were followed by the dissatisfaction of Armenia towards member countries, it caused opposite resonance and desperately then needed humanitarian aid activity for Azerbaijan was realized by both the OIC bodies and member countries on the basis of abovementioned resolutions.

Azerbaijan, by its turn, has demonstrated constructive, definite and unfailing position in discussing the fundamental problems of Islamic Ummah and adopting decision and resolutions, especially, regarding the Arab-Israel conflict and Palestine problem which are the main aims of foundation and activity of the OIC. In recent years, the relations between Azerbaijan and the OIC have stepped up to the qualitatively new level. Undoubtedly, being in the wartime conditions during the first years of its membership in the organization, the main aim of Azerbaijan’s foreign policy was to bring reasons, goals and grievous results of Armenian

aggression to the attention of the world community, but the cooperation with the OIC was not limited to this problem and many-field, mutually beneficial relations were prioritized.

The participation of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Ilham Aliyev in the 3rd Extraordinary Summit of the OIC in Mecca in 2005, holding the 33rd OIC Foreign Ministers Conference in 19-21 June 2006 in Baku in his initiative and International Forum on “Expanding the Role of Women in Cross-Cultural Dialogue” in the initiative of First Lady of Azerbaijan, President of Heydar Aliyev Foundation Ms. Mehriban Aliyeva in 10-11 June 2008 in Baku, the OIC Tourism Ministers Baku Conference, the international conference on the “Role of Media in Development of Tolerance and Mutual Understanding” and such a conferences and meetings hosted by Azerbaijan can be assessed as a part of abovementioned policy. Azerbaijan has an intensive cooperation with various bodies of the OIC, also. From this point of view, the activity of First Lady of Azerbaijan, President of Heydar Aliyev Foundation Ms. Mehriban Aliyeva is highly appreciated. As a result of these activities, Director General of the ISESCO Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri presented the diploma on Goodwill Ambassador of the ISESCO to Ms. Mehriban Aliyeva for her work to bring civilizations closer in 26 November 2006. Also, Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoglu, participating in the International Forum on “Expanding the Role of Women in Cross-Cultural Dialogue” held in 10-11 June 2008 in Baku, presented the diploma on Special Envoy of the OIC on Humanitarian Affairs to First Lady of Azerbaijan, President of Heydar Aliyev Foundation Ms. Mehriban Aliyeva for her activity in the humanitarian field. It is worth notice that the first woman whom such a high names awarded by the organizations of Islamic countries is First Lady of Azerbaijan.

The abovementioned resolutions in our interests were adopted also at the 11th OIC Summit held in Senegal in 13-14 March 2008 and 35th Session of the OIC Foreign Ministers in Uqanda in 10-11 June of the same year and the member countries once again strongly condemned the Armenian aggression at the final documents of these two meetings, demanding freedom of the occupied territories without any reservation.

It is also notice worth that the revised Charter of the OIC was adopted at the 11th Summit and inclusion of the provision on support by the member countries for the restoration of complete sovereignty and territorial integrity of any Member States under occupation, resulting from aggression, to the “Objective and Principles” part of the Charter, as a result of tireless and purposeful work done by Azerbaijan delegation, has an exclusive importance in formulating our future foreign policy.

It is also important that the position of the OIC member countries was decisive in adopting the resolution on the “Situation in the Occupied Territories of Azerbaijan” at the 62nd Session of the UN GA in 14 March 2008.

Official documents;

[Report on Expert Meeting in preparation of the Conference of the Heads of Law- Enforcement Agencies of the OIC Member States, Baku, 22-23 October 2007](#)

[OIC Resolution No. 16/22-E, On Economic Assistance to the Republic of Azerbaijan](#)

[OIC Resolution No. 10/30-C, On the Destruction and Desecration of Islamic Historical and Cultural Relics and Shrines in the Occupied Azeri Territories resulting from the Republic of Armenia's aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan](#)

[OIC Resolution No. 12/21-P, conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan](#)

[OIC Resolution No. 26/6-CONF, on cooperation between PUIC and ICYF-DC](#)

7. Azerbaijan – GUAM

GUAM is a regional grouping of five states which includes the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and the Ukraine founded as a political, economic and strategic alliance aimed at overcoming common risks and threats and strengthening their independence and sovereignty.

During the years of cooperation GUUAM became an important structure based upon common values of recognition of norms and principles of international law, including respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence, non-interference to internal affairs and inadmissibility of foreign military presence on the territory of other states, cooperation and mutually beneficial partnership, mutual interests and ties with each other, solidarity in approaching and coordinating efforts with a view of overcoming threats to its security.

Cooperation among delegations of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine started in 1996 in Vienna, Austria, at the CFE Treaty Conference, where four states issued joint statements and proposed common initiatives.

Establishment of GUAM consultative forum consisting of four states (Azerbaijan, Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine) took place on October 10, 1997 in Strasbourg in the course of the Council of Europe Summit, during which a Joint Communiqué of the Presidents of Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Moldova was adopted. In this document the Presidents stressed the necessity of developing quadrilateral cooperation for promoting stability and strengthening security in Europe on the basis of principles of respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of the state frontiers, democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights.

According to the results of the GUAM meeting Washington Declaration was adopted, where the Presidents noted that cooperation within the GUAM is not directed against third countries or a group of countries and membership is open to any country which subscribes to the fundamental principles and goals of the GUAM.

On September 6, 2000 the meeting of the Presidents of GUAM member states in the new format took place in New York in connection with the UN Millennium Summit during the fifty-fifth session of the UN General Assembly. At that meeting they adopted New York Memorandum that envisages intensifying cooperation within GUAM by giving it multilevel character. To this aim, it was deemed expedient to convene regular summits at the level of Heads of State at least once a year, and meetings at the level of Ministers for Foreign Affairs at least twice a year. The Committee of National Coordinators (CNC) shall hold regular sessions on a quarterly basis. Creation of conditions for interagency and direct contacts between corresponding state bodies of GUAM countries was defined as the main task of cooperation. Effective functioning of Europe-Caucasus-Asia transport corridor and development of its infrastructure was recognized as a top priority.

On June 7, 2001 in Yalta the Summit of the GUAM Presidents took place. It became a crucial event in formation and institutionalization of this regional organization as an international structure. Yalta Charter of GUUAM, signed by the Presidents in the course of the Summit, determines purposes, principles and directions of cooperation of the member states of the Organization. Grounds of the organizational structure of GUAM laid down in the Charter have, in fact, fixed the existing mechanism of cooperation of the member states, efficiency of which was proved in practice. According to Yalta Charter, GUAM presidency is carried out by the member states in alphabetical order during a period between the meetings of the Heads of State.

The next meeting of the Heads of States of GUAM members took place on July 20, 2002 in Yalta, where the Presidents decided to strengthen the GUAM organizational legal basis and further develop interaction with the purpose of coming out to a qualitatively new, practical level of cooperation. The Heads of States signed the Declaration on Common Efforts to Ensure Stability and Security in the Region, in which they stated determination of their countries to provide political, legal and organizational basis for overcoming the challenges of international terrorism, separatism, intolerance and extremism. Signing of the Agreement on Cooperation among the Governments of GUAM Participating States in the Field of Combat Against Terrorism, Organized Crime and Other Dangerous Types of Crimes has become an important step in this direction.

During following GUAM Yalta Summit on 4 July 2003 the participants of the meeting marked with satisfaction that for the last year cooperation in GUAM framework has left to the stage of realization of concrete projects and programs in priority directions with attraction of the third states and international organizations. The special attention has been given to questions of ensuring effective and secure functioning of transport corridors, fight against terrorism, organized crime, arms and drug trafficking and illegal migration. At that meeting along with other important documents the Agreement on Establishment of the GUAM Virtual Center for combating terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking and other dangerous types of crimes and GUAM Interstate Information Management System (IIMS) as well as Memorandum on Understanding among the GUAM Participating States on Trade and Transport Facilitation (TTF) were signed.

The next meeting of the Presidents of GUAM is planned to be conducted under Georgian chairmanship in Georgia on 14-15 June 2004. It is expected that this meeting will be commemorated by the completion of the institutionalization of GUAM as a regional organization and adoption of the Regional Strategy and Action Plan for TTF project and a package of working documents including essential legal and technical instruments, plans and programs necessary for proper functioning of the Virtual Center and IIMS.

The GUAM countries cooperate closely in the following fields:

Political cooperation

GUAM countries agreed to strengthen and improve the mechanisms of consultations and coordination of actions within the framework of international organizations such as UN, OSCE, CE, NATO and EU and to promote actively the practice of joint initiatives and statements at various levels.

Cooperation in the field of providing security of transport corridors

GUAM countries attach great importance to the issue of security and effective functioning of its transport corridors. The corridors of GUAM states play a crucial role in strengthening their sovereignty and independence, providing for their sustainable development and tightening links between these countries and western community. In the light of the aforesaid, GUAM has launched cooperation with some non-member states and organizations. As a result the joint "GUAM-US Framework Program on trade and transportation facilitation, ensuring border and customs control, combating terrorism, organized crime and drugs proliferation" has been concluded. Nowadays, in the scope of this Framework Program the two major projects are at the stage of implementation: 1) GUAM Trade and Transport Facilitation project and 2) project on establishment of the GUAM Virtual Center on combating terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking and other dangerous types of crime (VC) and Interstate Information Management System (IIMS).

Cooperation in the field of fight against terrorism and organized crime

The fight against terrorism and other illegal activities as well as security of energy and transport corridors remain the major issues on GUAM agenda. These days GUAM efforts are underway to build an effective mechanism for counter-terrorism cooperation and coordination based on common values and interests. Its two main projects, implemented under the above-mentioned GUAM-US Framework Program, are the "Project on Establishment of the GUAM Virtual Center for combating terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking and other dangerous types of crimes" and the "Project on Creation of the GUAM Interstate Information Management System (IIMS)". It should be noted that Azerbaijan's success in counter-terrorism activities has brought to its role as a coordinator of the GUAM Working Group on Fight against terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking.

Economic cooperation

The five states confirmed their commitment to the continuation of economic reforms aimed at developing democratic societies, free markets and the active integration of their countries into the global economy. Nowadays, the GUAM states cooperate on creating of the Free Trade Area based on equality and mutual benefits for its participating states and implementation of the GUAM Trade and Transport Facilitation project.

Cultural cooperation

Taking into consideration the vast cultural heritage of the GUAM countries, their input into the world civilization and wide prospects of the GUAM initiative for creation of the Europe-Caucasus-Asia cultural corridor, the GUAM states have signed Protocol on Cooperation in the Field of Culture within the Framework of GUAM for 2002-2005. Moreover international conference "East-West Inter-cultural dialogue among the states of GUAM: creation of Europe-Caucasus-Asia cultural corridor" took place in Baku on 9-10 June 2003. In joint declaration adopted according to the results of the meeting, the conference participants stressed the need for the development of multilateral cultural cooperation through implementation of concrete projects.

Organizational structure

- The supreme body of GUAM is the annual meeting of the Presidents of GUAM member states.
- The executive body of GUAM is the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of GUAM states.
- The working body of GUAM is the Committee of National Coordinators (CNC) of GUAM consisting of coordinators, one from each GUAM member state.

- The Information Office of GUAM in Kyiv is charged with carrying out functions of informational support of the National Coordinators of GUAM, state and non-state structures of GUAM Participating States in realization of cooperation in different spheres.

- Coordination of cooperation between GUAM countries on the branch level is laid upon seven Working Groups, that is for energy; transport; trade and economics; information technology; culture, science and education; tourism; fight against terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking.

International legal instruments adopted within the framework of GUUAM

- GUAM Presidents Strasbourg Communiqué, 1997;
- GUAM Presidents Washington Statement, 1999;
- GUAM Presidents New York Memorandum, 2000;
- GUAM Presidents New York Communiqué, 2000;
- GUAM Yalta Charter, 2001;
- Final Communiqué of the GUAM Yalta Summit, 2001;
- Final Communiqué of the GUAM Yalta Summit, 2002;
- Final Communiqué of the GUAM Yalta Summit, 2003;
- Convention of GUAM Member States on Rendering Mutual Assistance in Consular Issues, 2001;
- Statute of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of GUAM States, 2002;
- Agreement on Establishment of Free Trade Area among the GUAM Participating States, 2002;
- Agreement on Establishment of the Business Council of GUAM Participating States, 2002;
- Provisional Statute of the GUAM Information Office in Kyiv, 2002;
- Decision of the Heads of GUAM Participating States on the Status of Observers of GUAM Activities, 2002;
- Declaration of the Heads of States on Common Efforts to Ensure Stability and Security in the Region, 2002;
- Agreement on Cooperation among the Governments of GUAM Participating States in the Field of Combat Against Terrorism, Organized Crime and Other Dangerous Types of Crimes, 2002;
- Protocol on Cooperation in the Field of Culture within the Framework of GUAM for 2002-2005, 2002;
- Agreement on Establishment of the GUAM Virtual Center for combating terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking and other dangerous types of crimes and GUAM Interstate Information Management System (IIMS), 2003;
- Memorandum of Understanding among the GUAM Participating States on Trade and Transport Facilitation, 2003;
- Agreement among the Governments of the GUAM Participating States on cooperation in the field of prevention of emergencies and liquidation of its consequences, 2003;
- Agreement on cooperation in the sphere of education among the ministries of education of the GUUAM Participating States, 2003;
- Agreement on Cooperation among the Governments of the GUAM Participating States on mutual assistance and cooperation in customs issues, 2003;
- Protocol on Cooperation among the State Border Guard Services of the GUAM Participating States, 2003;
- Protocol on Cooperation among Academies of Science of the GUUAM Participating States on science and technology, 2003;
- Number of GUAM-US joint statements, 2001-2003;
- Other instruments related to the cooperation in separate spheres.

8. Azerbaijan – UNESCO

About UNESCO and Azerbaijan

UNESCO - the specialized UN agency is the largest intergovernmental forum for the cooperation in the fields of education, science and culture. Its Constitution was signed on November 16, 1945 in London, and on November 4, 1946 the agency, consisting of 20 member states, was officially launched. For this specialized United Nations agency, it is not enough to build classrooms in devastated countries or to publish scientific breakthroughs. Education, Social and Natural Science, Culture and Communication are the means to a far more ambitious goal: to build peace in the minds of men. As defined by Article I of the Constitution of UNESCO, the purpose of the Organization is to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations. Today UNESCO is composed of 193 Member States. It maintains close cooperation with UN and its specialized agencies, also has contractual relations with the leading international organizations such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, The Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States, ISESCO, etc. UNESCO actively cooperates with more than 600 leading international and non-governmental organizations. UNESCO is composed of three main governing bodies: the General Conference, the Executive Board and the Secretariat. The General Conference is the supreme body of UNESCO. It meets every two years, and is attended by Member States and Associate Members, together with observers for non-Member-States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Each country has one vote, irrespective of its size or the extent of its contribution to the budget. The General Conference determines the main lines of work of the Organization. Its duty is to set the programmes and the budget of UNESCO for the next two years. It also elects the Members of the Executive Board and appoints, every four years, the Director-General. The working languages of the General Conference are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. The Executive Board, in a sense, assures the overall management of UNESCO. It prepares the work of the General Conference and sees that its decisions are properly carried out. The functions and responsibilities of the Executive Board are derived primarily from the Constitution and from rules or directives laid down by the General Conference. Every two years the General Conference assigns specific tasks to the Board. Other functions stem from agreements concluded between UNESCO and the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations. It has 58 members are elected by the General Conference, largely, based on the diversity of the cultures and their geographical origin. The Executive Board meets twice a year. The Secretariat is based in Paris and it functions permanently. The Secretariat employs civil servants from some 170 countries. The office of the Director-General of UNESCO has been held by Mrs. Irina Bokova (Bulgaria) since 15 November 2009. Along with its headquarters in Paris, UNESCO has a wide network of regional bureaux, institutions and centers in various countries of the world. Azerbaijan is covered by the UNESCO Moscow Office.

Azerbaijan – UNESCO Relations

After restoration of its independence in 1991, the Republic of Azerbaijan has carried out the policy of the cooperation with a number of significant international and regional organizations. The Republic of Azerbaijan, deciding to cooperate with UNESCO providing its member states with the opportunities to benefit from assistance of high-level experts, technical aids, as well as the training of scientific and pedagogical personnel and the participation in global scientific projects, joined the Organization on July 3, 1992. The delegation headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Hasan Hasanov participated in the 27th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO in October 1993. The head of the delegation noted that Azerbaijan participated in such a significant event for the first time and provided brief information about Azerbaijan. The most important was that during the session, the 500th anniversary of the birth of Azeri poet Muhammad Fizuli was included in the UNESCO List of the dates of birth of the outstanding persons to be celebrated. The most significant step in the development of UNESCO-Azerbaijan relations was taken in the meeting of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev with the Director General of the UNESCO Mr. Federico Mayor during his official visit to the Republic of France in December 1993. During the meeting, the Parties discussed the perspective plans for enhancement and further development of the cooperation between them. According to Article VII each Member State shall make such arrangements as suit its particular conditions for the purpose of associating its

principal bodies interested in educational, scientific and cultural matters with the work of the Organization, preferably by the formation of a National Commission. Therefore, necessary measures for establishment of the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO had been carried out and, on 21 February 1994, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Heydar Aliyev signed the Order providing for taking of all necessary measures for this purpose. According to the Order the National Commission was established within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Minister of Foreign Affairs was appointed the Chairman of the Commission and was authorized to set up the structure of the Commission. The Commission consisted of the 25 members, who were the heads of relevant ministries and agencies, intellectuals and other representatives of society, and the permanent secretariat. On 15 September 2005, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev, taking into account the level of development of the mutual relations between UNESCO and the Republic of Azerbaijan, signed an Order on additional measures related with the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO. According to the Order, the new composition of the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO was defined. Currently the Chairman of the Commission is the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov. The National Commission determines the main lines of the policy of Azerbaijan in UNESCO. The day-to-day operational work on the cooperation of Azerbaijan with UNESCO is carried out by the Permanent Secretariat of the National Commission within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Baku and by the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Azerbaijan to UNESCO in Paris.

UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva

Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva put forth great efforts for enhancement of relations of Azerbaijan with UNESCO. This cooperation is not based only on bilateral relations and not only two parties benefit from it. The ancient and rich culture of Azerbaijan proceeded from national to international level and became a part of world culture. Being a multilateral international organization UNESCO provides opportunity for mutual cooperation of various countries, owing to which the young Republic of Azerbaijan could maintain the exchange of experience directly with UNESCO and various countries through it in the fields of education, science and culture. The First Lady of Azerbaijan, the President of Heydar Aliyev Foundation Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva played a vital role in development, enhancement and strengthening of Azerbaijan-UNESCO relations. In September 2004, Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva was designated as UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Oral and Musical Traditions, in recognition of her contribution to promotion of traditional music, literature and poetry, her outstanding service in the fields of musical education and exchange of world cultures and her commitment to UNESCO's ideas. Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva, who is a doctor by profession, is actively engaged in culture, education and sports. Organizing festivals, exhibitions, cultural events and concerts, through the foundation headed by her - The Friends of Azerbaijan Culture, she has rendered great services to the promotion of the cultural heritage of her country and contributed to its protection at national and regional levels. For the purpose of introducing the traditional classical music of Azerbaijan worldwide, Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva, initiated the establishment of an International Mugham Center in Baku. In recognition of her large-scale and selfless activity in various field, including inter-civilization dialogue, her care of children in need, her support to activities targeted at improvement of their living conditions and education, as well as her contributions to the works done in the Islamic World, on 24 November 2006, Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva was conferred the title of UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador.

UNESCO Director General Mrs. Irina Bokova presented UNESCO's Mozart Gold Medal to Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva on July 30, 2010. The Republic of Azerbaijan has joined the following UNESCO Conventions:

1. 14 May 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1993), First Protocol (1993) and the Second Protocol (1994) thereto;
2. 16 November 1972 Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1993);
3. 2 December 1979 Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees concerning Higher Education in the States belonging to the Europe Region (1994);
4. 16 December 1983 Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific (1995);
5. 6 September 1952 Universal Copyright Convention (1997);
6. Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (1998);
7. 14 November 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1997);

8. 2 February 1971 Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (2001);
9. 29 October 1971 Convention for the Protection of Producers of Phonograms against Unauthorized Duplication of their Phonograms (2001);
10. 1995 International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (2003);
11. 17 October 2003 Convention for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2006);
12. 19 October 2005 International Convention against Doping in Sport (2007).
13. Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Paris, 20 October 2005 (2010).

UNESCO Chairs at Azerbaijan Universities

Chair on Human Rights, Democracy and Peace at the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Recently work on establishment of UNESCO Chairs at the other educational institutions is conducted. Sectoral National Committees

1. International Council of Museums (ICOM);
2. Management of Social Transformations (MOST);
3. International Hydrological Programme (IHP);
4. Man and the Biosphere programme (MAB);
5. International Bioethics Committee (IBC);
6. International Music Council;
7. International Theatre Institute.

The following events related to Azerbaijan have been decided to be celebrated within the framework of UNESCO Programme of anniversaries of outstanding persons and historic events:

1. 1996 – 500th anniversary of the birth of Muhammad Fizuli; 2. 1997 – on the problems of technical professional education; 3. 1999 – on the problems of translation; 4. 2000 – 1300th anniversary of “Kitabi Dada Gorgud”; 5. 2001 – “Digital Silk Road” regional seminar; 6. 2001 – 800th anniversary of the birth of Nasiraddin Tusi; 7. 2001 – The second regional meeting of the Pedagogical Universities of the Caucasian countries 8. 2002 – 200th anniversary of the birth of Azeri scholar, orientalist Mirza Kazimbay; 9. 2003 – UNESCO Turkic States Space Generation Forum. 10. 2004 – dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict; 11. 2005 – 100th anniversary of the birth of outstanding Azeri scholar academician Yusif Mammadaliyev; 12. 2006 – 100th anniversary of the birth of famous Azeri carpet-maker artist Latif Karimov; 13. 2008 – 100th anniversary of “Leyli and Majnun” Opera. 14. 2008 – 100th anniversary of the birth of Azeri writer Mir Jalal Pashayev; 15. 2009 - 100th anniversary of the birth of Azeri artist Sattar Bahlulzade. 16. 2009 – 100th anniversary of the birth of Azeri scholar academician Musa Aliyev; 17. 5-6 may 2005, Baku, Conference aimed at establishment of the Europe-the Caucasus-Asia Observatory under the cultural policy of GUAM, with the assistance of UNESCO and on the initiative of the Ministry of Culture; 18. June 1-3, 2005 - Baku, 8th International Congress “Energy, Ecology, Economy”; 19. August 23-26, 2005 - Official visit of the Director-General of UNESCO Koichiro Matsuura to Azerbaijan; 20. August 24, 2005 - Baku, International conference, “UNESCO-Azerbaijan: bridge to the future”. Mutual Memorandum of Understanding on the cooperation between UNESCO and Azerbaijan in the field of education was signed at the end of the Conference. The Memorandum provides for the cooperation in such priority areas as promotion of equal access to quality education, application of information and communication technologies in education, quality education through teacher training and curriculum development at all levels of education, establishment of international cooperation network; 21. 2005 – A number of events in Baku and the Headquarters of UNESCO; 22. January 16, 2006 – Baku, International seminar on “Application of Information Technologies in

Library Automation” held by Azerbaijan National Library named after M.F.Akhundov; **23.** January 25-27, 2006 – Baku, International conference “Museum Management: Azerbaijan museums in face of economic and social changes”; held by Azerbaijan National Committee of International Council of Museums; **24.** March 15-16, 2006 – a number of events devoted to the participation the UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, the President of Heydar Aliyev Foundation Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva, in the Annual Meeting of the Goodwill Ambassadors in the Headquarters of the organization, attended by the Director-General of UNESCO and his Deputies; **25.** March 5-11, 2006 – visit of two Norwegian experts, in connection with the inclusion of Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve into the UNESCO World Heritage List, with the assistance of Heydar Aliyev Foundation. As a result of the visit, the Plan of Actions meeting the requirements of UNESCO was prepared by experts; **26.** May 19, 2006 – “Agreement on Implementation of the National Action Plan for the Safeguarding of the Mugham of Azerbaijan as a Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity” was signed between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and UNESCO, according to the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan; **27.** June 12-13, 2006 – Baku, International conference on the results of the “Promotion of Inclusive Education in Azerbaijan” Project, implemented by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the financial assistance of UNESCO. The main objective of the one-year project is to provide opportunities for upbringing and education of the children in need of special care (children with mental and physical disabilities) at the kindergartens and secondary schools. As the result of the project 22 children in need of special care were involved in upbringing and education at Kindergarten No. 80 and School Lyceum No. 43 in Baku city, as well as at Kindergarten No. 66 and School No. 4 in Sumgayit. **28.** October 19, 2006 – Azerbaijan Day held under the title 'Azerbaijan: On the Junction of Cultures and Civilizations' in frame of 'Dialog Among Civilizations' week dedicated to the 60th anniversary of UNESCO in the headquarters of UNESCO; **29.** September 18-21, 2006 – Baku, International seminar on “Development of Professional Education in Azerbaijan” and national seminar on “Application of Credit System in Universities of Azerbaijan” held by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the financial assistance of UNESCO within the framework of the Memorandum on the cooperation in the field of education signed between Azerbaijan and UNESCO in 2005; **30.** February 19, 2007 – the Headquarters of UNESCO, Paris, International Symposium on “Azerbaijan Carpet Trade” and “Azerbaijan Carpet” Exhibition, devoted to the 100th anniversary of the birth of carpet-maker, people’s artist Latif Karimov, within the framework of UNESCO programme of anniversaries of outstanding persons and historic events; **31.** February 21, 2007 – Roundtable at Azerbaijan Ataturk Center on the occasion of the International Day of Native Language, jointly organized by National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO, Azerbaijan Ataturk Center and UN Department of Public Information; **32.** April 27, 2007 – Protocol on Cooperation between Heydar Aliyev Foundation and ISESCO was signed by the President of Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO and ISESCO Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva and the Director-General of ISESCO Abdulaziz bin Osman al Tuweijri, who was in visit to Azerbaijan. The Protocol, regulating major principles of cooperation for 5 years, envisages development of ties in field of science, education and culture, development and implementation of joint projects, coordination of actions; **33.** June 18, 2007 – Agreement on the plan of implementation of the “Development of Professional Education” project was signed between UNESCO, the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Heydar Aliyev Foundation, in Heydar Aliyev Foundation; **34.** June 18-19, 2007 – Baku, the 5th Baku International Conference of Ombudsmen on “Capacity-building support for Ombudsmen in Promotion and Protection of Human Rights” held by the Ombudsman Institute of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the financial assistance of UNESCO; **35.** November 21, 2007 – Première of the films “Artificial Violets” and “Days in Meditation” devoted to mugham performer Fargana Gasimova, within the framework of the International project “Screening the Art of Mugham”, during the 7th International Audiovisual Festival in the Business Center; **36.** December 19, 2007 - website of the “Information Observatory on Cultural Policy of the GUAM Countries” was launched by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, according to the agreement with Moscow Bureau of UNESCO; **37.** 2007 – “Analytical Report on the State of the Youth in Azerbaijan” was published, according to the agreement between Moscow Bureau of UNESCO and the national Commission; **38.** 2007 – website “Atlas of traditional music of Azerbaijan” was launched with the financial assistance of UNESCO. **39.** May 14-16, 2008 – Baku, “Gulustan” Palace, Conference entitled “Addressing Literacy Challenges in Europe with a sub-regional focus: Building Partnerships and Promoting Innovative Approaches”, a part of a series of the UNESCO Regional Conferences in Support of Global Literacy. The Conference organized by UNESCO, Heydar Aliyev Foundation and the Ministry of Education was held on the initiative of the President of Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO and ISESCO Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva. The Conference was attended by the Director-General of UNESCO Koïchiro Matsuura, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors, as well as Ministers of Education of a number of countries and many experts, representatives of Azerbaijan Government and the Ambassadors of Foreign countries to Baku. **40.** June 10-11,

2008 – Baku, Gulustan Palace, International Forum on Expanding the Role of Women in Cross-cultural Dialogue. The forum organized under the initiative of President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva and co-sponsored by UNESCO and ISESCO, was attended by more than 300 representatives from different countries of the world, including a number of First Ladies, the Director-General of ISESCO and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors. **41.** November 23, 2008 – Scientific-theoretical conference dedicated to World “Philosophy Day” established by UNESCO was held at the ANAS Philosophy, Sociology and Law Research Institute. **42.** November 28, 2008 - International scientific-practical conference on “Research and Learning problems of Islam region Philosophy in the context of World Philosophy” was held in the framework of World Philosophy Day under the aegis of UNESCO at the ANAS Presidium. **43.** November 28-29, 2008 – International Conference on “Strabon Way as the part of Great Silk Road” was held under the initiative of Permanent Secretariat of the Azerbaijan National Commission for UNESCO, UNESCO Central Asian Research Institute and ANAS. **44.** December 27, 2008 – Opening ceremony of International Mugham Center, built under the initiative of UNESCO and ISESCO Goodwill Ambassador Mr. Mehriban Aliyeva, at the National Park, Baku. President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva participated at this event. **45.** March 18-25, 2009 - First International Mugham Festival co-organized by Heydar Aliyev Foundation, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan and Azerbaijan Composers' Union was held in Baku. The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, First Lady of Azerbaijan H.E. Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, the Director-General of UNESCO Mr. Koishiro Matsuura who was in official visit to Baku (March 19-21, 2009) and a number of other guests from 17 countries of the world attended the festival. Scientific conference, international competition of Mugham performers and various concerts were organized during the Festival. **46.** March 19, 2009 – the President of Azerbaijan Republic, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev received Director-General of UNESCO Koichiro Matsuura. The President informed the UNESCO chief about cultural projects implemented in Azerbaijan, pointing out the importance of the International Mugham Festival. On his behalf, Mr. Koishiro Matsuura expressed his appreciation to participate in opening ceremony of International Mugham Festival organized by Heydar Aliyev Foundation. **47.** March 19, 2009–President of Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO, H.E. Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva had a meeting with Director-General of UNESCO Koichiro Matsuura. In order to achieve objectives regarding to protection of Intangible Heritage, Agreement on Cooperation was signed between Heydar Aliyev Foundation and UNESCO. After signing ceremony Mr. Koichiro Matsuura presented a memorial silver medal to Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva. **48.** March 19, 2009 – Meeting of UNESCO Director-General Mr. Koishiro Matsuura with Members of National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO; On March 19, 2009 Director-General of UNESCO Mr. Koishiro Matsuura participated at the “Round table” of Azerbaijan National Commission for UNESCO, where he met with Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the chairman of National Commission, as well as with other members of the National Commission. **49.** March 20, 2009 - The Opening Ceremony of the Modern Art Museum, Baku; The opening ceremony of the Modern Art Museum was held in Baku on March 20, 2009. The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, the First Lady of Azerbaijan H.E. Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva and the Director-General of UNESCO Mr. Koishiro Matsuura took part in the ceremony. President Ilham Aliyev and the Director-General of UNESCO visited the exposition of the museum initiated by Mehriban Aliyeva, the Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO and ISESCO. **50.** March 20, 2009 - a large ceremony was organized in front of the gates of the Icheri Sheher (Inner City) in Baku, on the occasion of the Novruz Holiday. The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, the First Lady of Azerbaijan H.E. Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva and the Director-General of UNESCO Mr. Koishiro Matsuura attended the ceremony. **51.** April 20-22, 2009 – “Museum Management- XXI century”; The National Training on Modern Museum Management based on UNESCO/ICOM “Museum Management- XXI century “ Museum Training Package for museum specialists of Azerbaijan was held in Baku; **52.** May 14, 2009 – Annual Meeting of UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors; The First Lady of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva participated in the annual meeting of UNESCO goodwill ambassadors that took place at the Headquarters of UNESCO in Paris. Film about the activities and visits of UNESCO Director-General Mr. Koichiro Matsuura to Azerbaijan presented by Heydar Aliyev Foundation was screened during the event. **53.** May 21, 2009 – “Jazz Nights in Museum”; Art exhibit and jazz concert “Jazz Nights in Museum” were held in Museum within the framework of “Spring in Museum” campaign and on the occasion of World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, with the support of Museum Center, UNESCO Moscow Office and National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO. **54.** June 17-19, 2009 – The VII International Baku Conference of Ombudsmen; The VII International Baku Conference of Ombudsmen was held with the support of the UNESCO Moscow office on the topic of “Bioethics, human rights and new technologies: the legal and ethical aspects of reproductive health and family planning” initiated by the Institution Commissioner for Azerbaijan Human Rights; **55.** June 19, 2009 - Presentation Ceremony of “Master

Plan” for conservation of Icheri Sheher was held with support of Department of State Historical-Architectural Reserve Icheri Sheher under the Cabinet of Ministers. “Master Plan” is one of the important documents for excluding Icheri sheher from the UNESCO List of World Heritage in Danger. Icheri Sheher Reservation was excluded from the UNESCO List of World Heritage in Danger, as a result of the decision adopted on June 22-30, 2009 at the 33rd session of UNESCO World Heritage Committee held in Seville. **56.** July 12-18, 2009 - Delegation consisted of three UNESCO experts (Piter Tindemans, Eduardo Martinez and Vafa Mustafayev) visited Baku, with the aim of the assistance for preparation of the National Science and Technology Strategy, as well as assistance in making reforms in these fields. **57.** September 25, 2009 – Presentation ceremony of the website created within the project “Russian Museum: virtual branch” was held with the support of UNESCO Moscow Bureau, Museum Center and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Azerbaijan Republic. “The Russian Museum: virtual branch” Information-Educational Center, its functioning, the history of Museum Center, areas of its activities, the information on the participation in international projects, as well as different exhibitions are reflected in the website. **58.** November 17, 2009 –A number of events were organized by Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan to UNESCO and other government bodies of the Republic of Azerbaijan within the framework of “The Azerbaijani Day in UNESCO” at the UNESCO Headquarters, including the Conference entitled “Azerbaijani Woman: yesterday, today and tomorrow”, the celebration of the 100th anniversary of academician Musa Aliyev, and the celebration of the 100th anniversary of famous Azerbaijani artist Sattar Bahlulzadeh. **59.** November 14, 2009 - UNESCO Moscow Office, National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO and “AzerTag“ Information Agency implemented Workshop on the topic of “Modern climate changes and Azerbaijan”. The main goal of the workshop was the familiarization of mass media representatives and through them also population about global climate changes and their local impact in Azerbaijan. **60.** December 3, 2009 Presentation of nomination files of Ashig Art and Novruz Holiday inscribed on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, booklets and CD dedicated to Ashig Art of Azerbaijan was held at the Museum Centre in Baku with participation of the representatives of National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO, governmental officials, ANAS, mass media. It’s noteworthy that Azerbaijan Ashig Art and Novruz Holiday were included into the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, which took place in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) from September 28 to October 2, 2009. **61.** February 20-28, 2010 - UNESCO expert on technoparks Dr. Malkolm Perry visited Baku. Besides several institutions of ANAS, the expert also visited Sumgait Technology Park. Last, Mr. Perry visited the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO and at the meeting he expressed high appreciation of the works in STP construction area. **62.** April 28, 2010 - the First Lady of Azerbaijan Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva met with Director-General of UNESCO Mrs. Irina Bokova. During this meeting, Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva and Mrs Irina Bokova discussed the ways of promoting UNESCO’s projects and activities especially in the field of education and culture. Mrs. Irina Bokova commended Mrs. Aliyeva’s activities as UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, and expressed interest in the further cooperation, as well as noticed her intention to visit Azerbaijan in the near future. **63.** May 20, 2010 - Presentation Ceremony of “Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions” dedicated to “World Day For Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development”, was held in Museum Centre. It’s noteworthy that Azerbaijan joined this convention in 2009 and on June 15, 2010 was declared a full member. The message of Mrs. Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO, on the occasion of “World Day For Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development” was read in this event. **64.** June 1-10, 2010 - Fact-finding mission of UNESCO Expert Patricio Jeretic to Sheki for implementation of intersectoral Project on mobilizing cultural resources for sustainable development of Sheki region organized by UNESCO Moscow Office and National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO within the frame of UNESCO Country Programming Document (UCPD). The aim of mission was supporting cultural policy with the purpose of safeguarding diversity of natural heritage, developing culture, ecological tourism, education, information and communication technologies. **65.** June 17-19, 2010 - Baku (Azerbaijan) hosted an International conference on “Human Rights and Environment: Legal and Ethical Aspects of Climate Change”. The Conference was organized by the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the support of the UNESCO Office in Moscow. **66.** June 22-24, 2010 - Membership of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Intergovernmental Committee; On June 22-24 III session of General Assembly of Parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was held at the UNESCO Headquarters. At the end of the session Azerbaijan was selected as a member in elections to Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage **67.** July 28 -August 2, 2010 - Director-General of UNESCO Irina Bokova paid a visit to Baku with invitation of the First Lady of Azerbaijan Republic, Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO, president of Heydar Aliyev Foundation Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva. During her visit

Director General was received by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev and the First Lady Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva. Mrs. Irina Bokova got acquainted with Museum of Modern Art, Mugham Center, building of Carpet Museum and attended Icheri Sheher, UNESCO World Heritage Site. **68.** July 29, 2010 - Director-General of UNESCO Irina Bokova met with members of the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO. **69.** July 30, 2010 - Director-General participated at the official opening ceremony of the Second International Musical Festival. The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev and the First Lady Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva also participated in this event. **70.** August 1, 2010 - Director-General of UNESCO visited Sheki in the framework of her visit to Azerbaijan. Director-General attended Sheki Khan Palace, Albanian Temple in Kish village, Sheki-Ipek silk factory, Yukhary Karvansaray (Upper Karvansarai) monument.

Cultural and natural heritage of Azerbaijan

Protection of the cultural and natural heritage of Azerbaijan is one of the main lines in cooperation with UNESCO.

Icharishahar - Architectural Complex which is the historical center of Baku was included in the World Heritage List in December 2000. However, due to the earthquake in Azerbaijan, the architectural monuments were damaged, therefore on July 4, 2003, in the 27th session of World Heritage Committee; Icharishahar complex was included in the UNESCO List of World Heritage in Danger. In accordance with Decrees and Orders signed by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev state-care to the protection of historical-architectural monuments in Icheri Sheher was increased. Experts of UNESCO World Heritage Committee in their reports highly appreciated the works done by Azerbaijani Government in the direction of preservation of Icherisheher Reserve. Icheri Sheher Reserve was excluded from the UNESCO List of World Heritage in Danger, as a result of the decision adopted on June 22-30, 2009 at the 33rd session of UNESCO World Heritage Committee held in Seville. According to the decision adopted at the 31st session of UNESCO World Heritage Committee (New Zealand, 2007), Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve was included in the World Heritage List. For protection of the natural heritage of Azerbaijan, the nomination files for Hirkan Forests were prepared and submitted to the World Heritage Committee. Relevant measures are being taken for this purpose.

In 1999, Azerbaijan mugham performer Alim Gasimov won the first prize of UNESCO/International Music Council. On November 7, 2003, Azerbaijan mugham was declared the Masterpiece of the Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO. In 2008, Azerbaijan composer and pedagogue Firangiz Alizada was conferred the title of "Artist for Peace". For his outstanding services Tahir Salahov was awarded with Gold medal of "Picasso". Award was presented to painter on March 19, 2009 by Director-General of UNESCO Koishiro Matsuura.

September 28-October 2, 2009 - Azerbaijan Ashig Art and Novruz Holiday were included into the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity at the 4th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, which took place in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates). UNESCO Director General Mrs. Irina Bokova presented UNESCO's Mozart Gold Medal to Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva on July 30, 2010.

Azerbaijan has acceded to ten important conventions adopted under the auspices of UNESCO:

- Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the event of Armed Conflict and Protocol (1993), second protocol (2000)
- Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1993)
- Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in the States belonging to the Europe Region (1994)
- Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific (1995)
- Universal Copyright Convention, with Appendix Declaration to Article XVII and Resolution concerning Article XI (1997)
- Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the Europe Region (1998)
- Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1997)

- Convention of Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (2001)
- Convention for the Protection of Producers of Phonograms against unauthorized Duplication of their Phonograms (2001)
- UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (2003)

Azerbaijan is a member of three subsidiary bodies of UNESCO:

1. International Bioethics Committee (2001)
2. Legal Committee (2003)
3. Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitutions in Case of Illicit Appropriation (PRCP) (2003)

A highly successful UNESCO project aiming at strengthening computer technology is being implemented with financial assistance of the UNDP. In the framework of this project three scientific centers for the training of computer specialists have been set up so far: in Baku, Sumgait and Nakhchivan. An educational TV studio was established in the Faculty of Journalism of the Baku State University (2001).

Fifteen international conferences and seminars have been held in Baku with the assistance of UNESCO:

- Celebration of the 500th anniversary of Azerbaijani poet Fuzuli (1996)
- Conference on the development of vocational education (1997)
- Conference on "Future aspects of Translation, Interpretation and Terminology in Azerbaijan in the New Global Context" (1999)
- Celebration of the 1300th anniversary of Kitabi-Dede Korkut (2000)
- National conference on legislative tools for cultural heritage protection (2001)
- Second meeting of the Network of the Pedagogical Universities of the South Caucasus (2001)
- Celebration of the 800th anniversary of Azerbaijani astronomer Nasreddin Tusi (2001)
- Regional Workshop for IT applications for the "Digital Silk Road" (2001)
- Consultation meeting on "Major events of the 20th century production of a series of TV films" (2002)
- National seminar devoted to World Space Day (2002)
- Turkic States Space Generation Forum (2003)
- Celebration of the 200th anniversary of a well-known orientalist Mirza Kazim-Bey (2003)
- East-West intercultural Dialogue (Cultural Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia) (2003)
- Conference on 50th anniversary of Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the event of Armed Conflict (2004)
- Regional workshop for UNESCO (ASPnet) National Coordinators and Teachers, "Quality Education in Practice" (2004)

Two UNESCO Chairs have been established in the fields of

- Human Rights, Democracy and Peace (Academy of Public Administration, Baku)
- Translation Studies (Azerbaijan University of Languages, Baku)

National Committees have been established for the following Intergovernmental Programs of UNESCO:

- Management of Social Transformations (MOST)
- International Hydrological Program (IIP)
- Man and the Biosphere (MAB)
- International Council of Museums (ICOM)
- International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)
- International Music Council
- International Institute of Theatre

The following books and booklets have been translated and published in Azerbaijani language with the assistance of UNESCO:

- Human Rights: A compilation of International Instruments
- UNESCO's standard-setting instruments
- UNESCO Declaration on Tolerance
- Human Rights: questions and answers by Lea Levin
- Introducing Democracy: 80 questions and answers
- UNESCO Peace Pack
- Azerbaijan-UNESCO: 1992-2002
- What does Culture of Peace mean?
- United Nations' Declaration on Culture of Peace
- Developing multilingual communications in Azerbaijan (2001). Follow-up of the Conference on future aspects of translation, interpretation and terminology in Azerbaijan in the global context, held in Baku in May 1999.
- Associative Schools Project Network
- UNESCO Declaration on Cultural Diversity
- Human Rights Protection: International and Azerbaijani mechanisms (under preparation)

The famous Azerbaijani Mugham performer Alim Gasimov was awarded the IMC-UNESCO International Music Prize in 1999.

International Year for the Culture of Peace was widely celebrated with more than 400,000 signatures for the Manifesto2000 Culture of Peace. A special postage stamp and envelope devoted to the International Year for the Culture of Peace was issued in 2000.

Director-General Mr. Koichiro Matsuura made an official visit to Azerbaijan in April 2000. Previously, Mr. Federico Mayor had made an official visit in 1996, and later, in 2003, the Assistant Director-General for Culture Mr. Mounir Bouchenaki visited Azerbaijan.

The Walled city of Baku, with the Shirvan-Shahs Palace and Maiden Tower, was included in the World Heritage List (2000), but UNESCO recommendations have not been completely fulfilled, and the monument was included in UNESCO's World Heritage in Danger List in the 27th session of the World Heritage Committee held on July 4, 2003.

There are different works of art in UNESCO Headquarters building given as a present by member states. One of them is a carpet by Latif Karimov, dedicated to Memar Ajemi, which was among several items presented to UNESCO in 1983.

Azerbaijan Mugham was announced as a masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in November 7, 2003.

The president of the Azerbaijani Culture Friends Foundation Mehriban Aliyeva met with the Director-General of UNESCO Koichiro Matsuura in 2004.

Azerbaijani representatives regularly take part in conferences, seminars and other events held within the framework of UNESCO.

9. Azerbaijan – OAS

Cp/res. 788 (1270/01) Granting the Republic Of Azerbaijan the status of Permanent Observer to the Organization.

THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, HAVING SEEN the request from the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan to be granted the status of permanent observer to the Organization of American States (CP/doc.3412/01) and the report of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on the matter (CP/CAJP-1771/01); and

CONSIDERING:

That, by resolution AG/RES. 50 (I-O/71), the General Assembly established the status of permanent observer to the Organization of American States and assigned to the Permanent Council the task of determining the criteria and timing for awarding it; and That, under resolution CP/RES. 407 (573/84), any independent state may request the status of permanent observer to the Organization of American States, in keeping with resolution AG/RES. 50 (I-O/71),

RESOLVES:

1. To grant the Republic of Azerbaijan the status of permanent observer to the Organization of American States, in keeping with General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 50 (I-O/71) and Permanent Council resolution CP/RES. 407 (573/84).
2. To invite the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan to accredit a permanent observer to the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization, in keeping with operative paragraph 7 of resolution CP/RES. 407 (573/84).
3. To request the Secretary General to advise the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization, including the inter-American specialized organizations, of this decision, once the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan has been informed thereof.

VI. DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS

1. Azerbaijani Missions Abroad

Austria (also accredited to Slovakia, Slovenia, OSCE, UNOV, UNIDO, IAEA, CTBTO)
Belarus
Belgium (also accredited to Luxemburg and to EUOB)
Bulgaria
Canada (also accredited to International Civil Aviation Organization)
China (also accredited to Mongolia, Republic of Korea and Vietnam)
Czech Republic
Egypt (also accredited to Socialist People's Lybian Arab Jamahiria, Permenent Observer to the League of Arab States)
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hungary
India (also akkredited to Nepal Kingdom, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives)
Indonesia (also akkredited to Philippines)
Iran (also accredited to ECO)
Italy (also accredited to the Republic of San Marino, the Republic of Malta, as well as to UN FAO, IFAD and WFP)
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kirgizstan
Korea
Kuwait
Latvia (also akkredited to Estonia)
Lithuania
Malaysia
Moldova
Morocco (also akkredited to Tunis, Mauritania and Senegal)
Netherlands
Pakistan (also akkredited to Afganistan)
Poland
Romania
Russia
Saudi Arabia (also accredited to Bahrain, Oman and Organization of Islamic Conference)
Spain (also accredited to Andorra and World Tourism Organization)
Sweden
Switzerland (also accredited to Holy See and Liechtenstein)
Tajikistan
Turkey (also accredited to Macedonia)
Turkmenistan
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom (also accredited to Ireland and Norway)
USA (also accredited to Mexico and Organization of American States)
Uzbekistan
Mission to NATO (also accredited to OPCW)
Mission to UNESCO
Permanent Mission to the Council of Europe
Permanent Mission to the UN

Permanent Mission to the UN Office and other international organizations at Geneva
Consulate General in Istanbul (also accredited to BSEC)
Consulate General in Kars
Consulate General in Los Angeles
Consulate General in St. Petersburg
Consulate General in Tabriz
Honorary Consulate in Lebanon

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WEB: www.azembassyprague.az

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Office of the Counsellor for Financial Affairs:
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Tel: (99412) 498 91 08
Fax: (99412) 493 75 26

Office of the Counsellor for Religious Affairs:
Baku, Shehitlik Mosque
Tel: (99412) 492 98 53/15
Fax: (99412) 492 96 91

Office of the Press
Counsellor Baku, Hagani str. 27
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Fax: (99412) 468 74 07

Office of the Economic
Counsellor: Baku, Azadlik Ave. 3/ 28
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Office of the Commercial
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UNITED KINGDOM

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H.E. Mr. Ismatulla IRGASHEV

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3. International Organizations in Baku

Asian Development Bank
Council of Europe
European Bank of Reconstruction and Development
European Commission
International Committee of the Red Cross
International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
International Monetary Fund
International Organization for Migration
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
Science and Technology Center in Ukraine
TRACECA
United Nations
United Nations Children`s Fund
United Nations Department of Public Information
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
United Nations Population Fund
United Nations World Food Programme
World Bank

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Azerbaijan Resident Mission East and Asia Department
Mr. Philip CHANG
Resident Representative
Address: Baku, AZ-1010, Nizami str. 96,
Landmark building-4-th floor.
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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EUROPEAN BANK

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, EBRD
Mr. Aygen YAYIKOGLU
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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

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International Organization for Migration
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Office of the Resident Representative of the
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TRACECA

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UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Resident-Coordinator's Office
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT COORDINATOR
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UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (UNWFP)

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WORLD BANK

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VII. FOREIGN MINISTERS OF AZERBAIJAN

	Name, Family name.	Years in service	
1	Gadjinski Mamed Hassan	28. 05. 1918 – 06. 10. 1918	Minister of the Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan
2	Topchubashev Alimardan bey	06. 10. 1918 – 07. 12. 1918	Minister of the Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan
3	Khoyski Fatali khan	26. 12. 1918 – 14. 03. 1919 24. 12. 1919 – 01. 04. 1920	Minister of the Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan
4	Djafarov Mamed Yusif	14. 03. 1919 – 22. 12. 1919	Minister of the Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan
5	Narimanov Nariman	04. 1920 – 05. 1921	Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars and Minister of the Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan.
6	Huseynov Mirza Davud	05. 1921 – 12. 1921 January 1923 – January 1924	People's commissar of the Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan People's commissar of the Foreign Affairs of Transcaucasian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
7	Aliyev Mahmud	1944 – 1958	Minister of the Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan
8	Tahirova Tahira	1959 – 1983	Minister of the Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan
9	Gafarova Elmira	1983 – 1987	Minister of the Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan
10	Sadikhov Huseinaga	23. 01. 1988 – 29. 05. 1992	Minister of the Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan
11	Gasimov Tofiq	04. 07. 1992 – 26.	Minister of the

Administrative Department of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
P R E S I D E N T I A L L I B R A R Y

		06. 1993	Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan
12	Hassanov Hassan	02. 09. 1993 – 16. 02. 1998	Minister of the Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan
13	Zulfugarov Tofiq	05. 03. 1998 – 26. 10. 1999	Minister of the Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan
14	Guliyev Vilayet	26. 10. 1999 – 02. 04. 2004	Minister of the Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan
15	Mamedyarov Elmar	Since 02. 04. 2004	Minister of the Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan