**SPEECH**

**Jeyran Rahmatullayeva, Head of Apparatus of the State Committee for Family, Women and Child Problems of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

**Distinguished delegates,**

**Dear participants!**

Let me to greet the attenders of the event on behalf of the State Committee for Family, Women and Child Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and give you very brief information about opportunities have been created for the indigenous women and girls living in Azerbaijan. There are about 50 NGOs, national cultural centers, public associations and societies dealing with the issues of indigenous nations in the country. I would like to mention the most active ones of them: "Yeva" Women's Society, "Sona" Society of Ahiska Turkish Women and the Humanitarian Association of Azerbaijan's Jewish Women.

The main part of the population of Azerbaijan is Azerbaijanis and about 30 nations and ethnic groups. Among them are Tatars, Ahiska Turks, Tats, Talysh, mountain Jews, Kurds, Udis, Lezgins, Avars, Sakhurs, Budugs, Ingiloys, Khinaligs, Russians and Malakans. Equal opportunities have been created for every representative of any nation living in Azerbaijan. Our country has joined more than 50 international conventions on protection of human rights and national minorities. Azerbaijani radio broadcasts regular state-funded radio programs in the Kurdish, Lezghin, Talysh, Georgian and Russian languages.

More than 15 newspapers and magazines are published in the languages of the ethnic communities living in the country, and 5 local TV and radio channels operate in the regions where these peoples live compactly. Women are also actively taking advantage of all these opportunities. There are more than 40 music and folklore groups of these people in a number of regions of Azerbaijan, and these are groups majority consisting of women. Branches of the Azerbaijan Writers' Union have been acting in the regions where they live compactly - in Guba, Lankaran and Sheki cities.

There are religious places of worship in Azerbaijan for representatives of indigenous nations, including women. Let me note that, there is a Roman Catholic Church, a historical Lutheran Church in the centre of Baku, and German-Lutheran, Albanian churches, Synagogues, Russian-Orthodox churches in the regions.

Azerbaijan is the part of UNESCO “Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Self-expression”.

The State Council on International, Multiculturalism and Religious Affairs and the Baku International Center for Multiculturalism has been acting since 2014.

Employment and participation in all spheres of life and policy of these groups of women and girls are main interests of Azerbaijan Government.

Women of other nationalities are active in the women's branches of political parties, different life projects and their participation is ensured at all levels.

**Thank you for your attention.**