

**Information submitted by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan
regarding the thematic report prepared by the UN Special Rapporteur on
human rights and the environment**

1. Legislation, programs and projects of the Republic of Azerbaijan in relation to the protection of children's right from environmental harm

Issues related to the social and legal protection of children in the Republic of Azerbaijan are regulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Article 42. Right to education and Article 39. Right to live in a healthy environment) and by a number of legislative and normative acts.

The Republic of Azerbaijan has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child by the Law number 236, dated 23 July, 1992.

In 1993, Azerbaijan joined "the World Declaration on Survival, Protection and Development of Children", dated 30 September, 1990,

The Law on Education and Enlightenment of the people on ecology, approved by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2003, establishes equal conditions for the acquisition of environmental knowledge as the basic principles of the state environmental policy, the introduction of uninterrupted ecological education in the secondary education system, and reflects ensuring transparency in the adoption of environmental decisions. In order to carry out the tasks arising from the law, environmental education on special education programs is being implemented at all levels of education. The Republic Centre for Ecological Education and Training (REETC) of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan has conducted a number of activities in the field of ecological education and upbringing of pupils.

The Republic Centre for Children's and Youth Development (RCYDC) established at the base of REETC on 1 November 2016 is building its activities in the direction of comprehensive development of children and youth, effective planning their leisure time in different directions.

"Ekoklubs" and courses were organized at the pilot secondary schools of Baku by the initiative of RCYDC. These "Ekoklubs" and courses increase ecological knowledge of the students and engage them in the improvement of the ecological situation by preparing programs and methodological manuals such as "Alternative Energy", "Creation of School Forestry", "Environmental Education for Children in Preschool Education Institutions", "Energy and Environment", "Environmental Tourism", "Climate Change", "Role of classroom events in increasing the environmental knowledge of pupils", "Organization of environmental excursions with schoolchildren" and so on.

With the support of the Norwegian Nature Protection Organization, the Azerbaijani Youth Union organized trainings on efficient use of energy in environmental associations of schools involved in SPARE project and students were informed about alternative energy sources.

Since 1998, each year, Ekoerudit has been testing ecological knowledge of hundreds of students that participate in the Brain-ring competitions.

Every year since 2010, the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan jointly with the German Society for International Cooperation has been organizing a

national ecological event called "May 22 - Day of Biodiversity". On May 22, hundreds of students across the country participated in environmental excursions and studied biological diversity in the school area.

The school's environmental monitoring network for biodiversity has been created and video-films dedicated to the German student's ecological researches and information for teachers are posted on www.biodiversity.axtaran.az.

With the support of the ENPI FLEG program, young forestry groups have been established in secondary schools. Since 2011, in the Republican Forest Saving competition, students have been actively involved together with experts in protecting and studying forests.

National Contests of schoolchildren were held within the framework of annual awareness-raising program on ecological clean products and agrobiodiversity in 2016-2017 with the support of the Ministry of Education, Republican Child and Youth Development Center, Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources.

II National Contests of schoolchildren on "Ecologically clean crop and agrobiodiversity" was organized in connection with environmental awareness based on the action plan for the preparation and implementation of pilot projects for the organization of ecologically clean agriculture in accordance with the "Strategic road map on production and processing of agricultural products" approved by the decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, dated March 16, 2016.

In order to promote environmental awareness and environmental protection in the framework of the Ecological Awareness Program "Green Network" the Ecological Forum of the Baku Schoolchildren was held in 2016-2017 by the Republican Children and Youth Development Center of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Since 2014, within the framework of the ecological awareness program "Return of gazelles to historically populated areas of the Caucasus" with the joint efforts of the Republican Children and Youth Development Center, the IDEA Public Union and the WWF Azerbaijan Office, Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan ecological summer camps for students were organized under the motto "Protect the gazelles!", "Let's protect the leopards!" have been organized.

Projects implemented at boarding schools

In accordance with approved annual work plans on leisure time for pupils studying at senior classes in boarding schools under the Ministry of Education, lectures were held on combating drug abuse, human trafficking, reproductive health, alcohol, tobacco and tobacco products, human rights and children's rights.

At the same time, optional lessons on "Life Skills Based Education", covering issues related to drug addiction, drug abuse and its harmful effects on the body and healthy lifestyle, are being held to improve the life skills of children at boarding schools.

Moreover, the management of nutrition at boarding schools under the Ministry of Education has been centralized. From the 2013-2014 academic year, relevant dietary menus for special boarding schools under the Ministry of Education (for children with mental and physical disabilities, tuberculosis, and rheumatism disease) have been developed. Menus are subject to individual changes according to the type of disease, course, severity, remission or recurrence.

Rational and balanced nutrition is one of the important and effective factors that ensure the health and harmonious development of children. Proper nutrition of children and teens, besides meeting daily food needs, also ensures their comprehensive developmental harmony.

2. Good practices

National Forums of Azerbaijani Children with the participation of experts from relevant state agencies are held in the country. The forums include children representing all cities and districts of Azerbaijan; their discussions cover issues affecting children (e.g. equal rights and opportunities for children, education, internet safety, the environment, healthy lifestyle, managing recreational time, as well as the roles and responsibilities of families and society in the development children's personalities). Moreover, children make presentations incorporating their suggestions and recommendations with regard to each of the subjects mentioned above. At the end of the forum, the children create a Coordination Council which is intended to help them to cooperate till the next forum. Members of the Coordination Council conduct trainings on "Children's Rights: Learn and Share our Rights". Children representing all districts of the capital city of Baku participate in these trainings.

Children in need of special care participate at the forums as well. During the training workshops were conducted around children's rights, internet safety, the environment, healthy lifestyle, and managing recreational time of children, and social videos were displayed relating to the children's issues. The participants of these trainings initiated organization of similar events at their schools.

IV National Forum of Azerbaijani Children will be held on November, 2017 by SCFWCA jointly with Heydar Aliyev Foundation and UNICEF Office in Azerbaijan. In this regard, Summer School was organized by the SCFWCA and UNICEF on July-August, 2017 for the preparation of the Forum. Participants were trained on protection of environment and healthy lifestyle, workshop and active discussions were conducted during the Summer School.