**Information on the Human Rights Council resolution 33/22 entitled “Equal participation in political and public affairs”**

According to the article 25 of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan all people are equal with respect to the law and law court. Men and women possess equal rights and liberties. The state guarantees equality of rights and liberties of everyone, irrespective of race, nationality, religion, language, sex, origin, financial position, occupation, political convictions, membership in political parties, trade unions and other public organizations. Rights and liberties of a person, citizen cannot be restricted due to race, nationality, religion, language, sex, origin, conviction, political and social belonging. Equal rights shall be provided for everyone in relationship to the state institutions making decisions on rights and responsibilities and those having the competencies of state authority.

According to the Article 54 of the Constitution, citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan have the right to take part in political life of society and state without restrictions.

According to the Article 55 of the Constitution, citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan have the right to take part in governing the state. They may exercise the said right themselves or through their representatives.

Citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan have the right to work in governmental bodies. Officials of state bodies are appointed from citizens of the Azerbaijan Republic. Foreign citizens and stateless citizens may be employed into state organizations in an established order.

The Law on Public Participation of the Republic of Azerbaijan adopted on 14th January 2014 (effective since 1st June 2014) requires state bodies establish public councils and support their activities for the purpose of close participation of civil society representatives in the work of state bodies. This kind of council and cooperation networks have been established by the Ministries of Youth and sport, Justice, Labour and social protection of population, Environment and natural resources, the State Agency for Public Services and Social Innovation under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the State Social Protection Fund and other state authorities.

The issue of the participation of national minorities in public and political life is reflected in the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 16 September 1992 "On protection rights and freedoms, state support of development of language and culture of national minorities and ethnic groups living in Azerbaijan" aimed at further improving relations between minorities and increasing the level of their involvement in legal state-building.

National minorities are widely represented in state structures of Azerbaijan. In the areas densely populated by national minorities, representatives of the local population hold leading positions in local authorities, institutions of local government and other structures. Persons belonging to national minorities work in Executive Office of the President of Azerbaijan, in Parliament, in Cabinet of Ministers, in Constitutional court, Central Election Commission, law-enforcement bodies and other state structures.

With regard to the participation of women in political life it is necessary to mention that currently the number of female members of Parliamentis 21 (2017). The representation of women in decision-making as of December 2016 is as following:

* 1 Head of Executive Power
* 79 Deputy Heads of the Executive Powers in the Districts of Azerbaijan
* 35% of Members of Municipalities
* 29% chairs of Members of Municipalities
* 1 Deputy Chair of the Parliament (out of 3)
* 21 Members of the Parliament (out of 125)
* 1 Co-Chair of the Chamber of Auditors (out of 3)
* Chair of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs
* Chair of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of the Nakhchivan  Autonomous Republic
* Chair of the Board of Directors of the State Examination Center
* The Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman)
* The Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Nakhchivan  Autonomous Republic
* 1 Deputy Chair of the Cabinet of Ministers of Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic
* Minister of Culture of Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic
* 1 Deputy Chairman of the Constitutional Court
* 1 Chair of the Civil Board of the Supreme Court
* 3 Deputy Ministers
* 1 Vice-President of the State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan (out of 3)
* 1 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
* 29,2 % of  civil servants

According to the Article 42 of the Constitution every citizen has the right for education. The state guarantees free obligatory secondary education. The system of education is under the state control. The state guarantees continuation of education for most gifted persons irrespective of their financial position. The state establishes minimum educational standards. This article stipulates that a nine-year public education is free and mandatory.

The Law "On Education of Persons with Limited Health Capacity" enables children with disabilities to be educated in traditional classrooms, special boarding schools or at home with a special tutor. As part of the project carried out by the Ministry of Education in cooperation with UNICEF, inclusive education at the primary school level is implemented. To this end, 2 pilot schools have been identified for project feasibility and implementation. To increase efficiency, several teachers along with administrative staff have been trained abroad.

According to the article 16 of the Labour Code of Azerbaijan it is strictly prohibited to have any discrimination in labour relations because of citizenship, sex, race, religion, nationality, language, living place, property situation, public and social origin, age, marital status, belief, political view, belonging to any trade unions or other social unions, official position and as well as the professional skills of the employee, professional skills, the reasons that are not related to work activity. According to mentioned situations any directly or indirectly determination of privileges and benefits and as well as limitation of the rights are strictly prohibited. Privileges and defining additional guarantees in labour relations for women, persons with disabilities, persons under 18 and people with needs of social protection shall not be considered discrimination. According to the Article 155 of Labour Code employee has the right to work in a secure and healthy working condition and without any discrimination to have at least minimum salary for the work defined by the State.

The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the social protection of disabled persons was adopted in 1992. Persons with disabilities and disabled children have all social-economic, political, personal rights and freedoms in accordance with Article 1 of the Law on “Preventing Disability and health problems of the children, Rehabilitation and Social Protection of persons and children with disabilities” of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Declaration adopted by UN General Assembly, the Constitution of Azerbaijan, above mentioned relevant Law and other relevant legislative acts. Discrimination is forbidden against them and is prosecuted by the Law.

According to the Article 47 of the Constitution, everyone may enjoy freedom of thought and speech. Nobody should be forced to promulgate his/her thoughts and convictions or to renounce his/her thoughts and convictions. Propaganda provoking racial, national, religious and social discord and animosity is prohibited. According to the Article 50 of the Constitution, everyone is free to look for, acquire, transfer, prepare and distribute information.

According to the Article 56 of the Constitution, citizens of the Azerbaijan Republic have the right to elect and be elected to state bodies and also to take part in referendum. Those recognized incapable by law court have no right to take part in elections and in referendum.

Today Azerbaijan is a part to 9 UN core international treaties on human rights. To achieve substantial and specific results Azerbaijan closely cooperates with UN treaty bodies, regularly submitting reports on measures taken to implement the rights and freedoms stipulated in international instruments.

The successful implementation of “The State Program on Poverty Reduction and Economic Development in the Republic of Azerbaijan 2003-2005” and “The State Program on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development in the Republic of Azerbaijan 2008-2015” are good examples of commitment to sustainable development in the country. As an active member state of UN Azerbaijan jointed the Sustainable Development Goals during the UN Sustainable Development Summit which was held in September 2015, in New York. As it was envisaged in the resolution for the implementation the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Sustainable Developments Goals the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan was established with the Presidential Decree of October 6, 2016. Establishment of this Council will ensure setting up of national implementation mechanisms for achieving SDGs in a country and preparation of the annual reports on the implementation of SDGs. The Council has an authority to involve local and international experts, international and scientific organizations and working groups in different fields.