The National Activity Program is being approved with the aim of raising effectiveness of protection of human rights and freedoms, promoting legal culture and ensuring sustainability of activities to improve the regulatory and legal framework and the human rights protection system.

Chapter I

Improvement of the regulatory and legal framework


Article 12 of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan provides that ensuring the rights and freedoms of individual and citizen and a decent standard of living for citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan is the supreme goal of the State. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to ensure that the laws adopted in the Republic of Azerbaijan primarily secure the rights and freedoms enshrined by the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the international treaties to which the Republic of Azerbaijan is a signatory. Current legislative practice in the country shows that in preparation of laws the legislature is guided by the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the international treaties to which the Republic of Azerbaijan is a signatory. Apart from this, many draft laws are being submitted, for expertise, to international organizations specializing in human rights and subsequently adopted with due account taken of their recommendations.


Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

1.2. Implementation of the commitments and obligations arising from the international treaties on human rights and freedoms to which the Republic of Azerbaijan is a signatory and ensuring compliance of regulatory and legal acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan with international legal instruments

Acceding to the international treaties on human rights and freedoms, the Republic of Azerbaijan has undertaken a commitment to ensure the rights and freedoms of everyone within its jurisdiction. As a part of a procedure to monitor the fulfillment of this commitment, it is important to implement the opinions and recommendations, of the specialized agencies of the United Nations, the Council of Europe and other intergovernmental organizations, on periodic reports on protection of human rights and freedoms submitted by the Republic of Azerbaijan. Furthermore, in the framework of execution of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, it is envisaged to undertake measures to improve national legislation. In fulfilling these obligations it is necessary to conduct a detailed analysis of the recommendations, identify future actions and state agencies responsible for their implementation. In this regard, the organizations listed below are to be engaged in this process. Local human rights non-governmental organizations are also to be involved in this activity.

Implementing institutions: Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Milli Mejlis of the Republic of

Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

1.2.1. Adoption of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on ensuring the rights and freedoms of persons during pre-trial detention
Time-limit: March-April 2012

1.2.2. Elaboration of a draft law on amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Republic of Azerbaijan to ensure the lawfulness of detention of the persons subjected to remand in custody
Implementing institutions: Administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
Time-limit: 2012

1.2.3. Elaboration of amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Republic of Azerbaijan to ensure the rights of persons detained for the purposes of extradition
Implementing institution: Administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
Time-limit: 2012

1.2.4. Elaboration of the proposals to update the Chapter of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan on “Crimes against computer information” and to ensure its compliance with the requirements of the Convention on Cybercrime of 23 November 2001, in order to improve the effectiveness of fight against violations of human rights through the use of information technologies
Implementing institution: Administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
Time-limit: 2012

1.2.5. Elaboration of proposals to ensure the compatibility of the criminal legislation with international legal standards in order to prevent the sexual exploitation of children
Implementing institution: Administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
Time-limit: 2012

1.2.6. Elaboration of the proposals on establishing of the criminal responsibility of the legal entities in order to prevent violations of human rights by them
Implementing institution: Administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
Time-limit: 2012

1.2.7. Elaboration of proposals on improving the legislation in order to decriminalize defamation
Implementing institution: Administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
Time-limit: 2012

1.2.8. Completion of drafting of the Migration Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan in order to ensure the rights of migrants
Implementing institution: Administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
Time-limit: 2012

1.2.9. Improvement of labor legislation related to labor rights of working women and
workers with family responsibilities taking into consideration the obligations arising from the Conventions of the International Labor Organization “On the protection of motherhood” of 2000 and “Equal Opportunities and Equal Treatment for Men and Women Workers: Workers with Family Responsibilities” of 1981
Time-limit: 2012

1.2.10. Enhancement of parental responsibility and improvement of normative-legal framework regulating the duties of parents
Time-limit: 2012-2013

1.3. Continuation of measures relating to the accession of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the international treaties on the protection of human rights
Up to date the Republic of Azerbaijan has acceded to hundreds of conventions of the United Nations and various regional organizations, as well as other international treaties. At the same time, considering the continued development of international law on human rights and the adoption of new international treaties, it is necessary to analyze the expediency of accession of the Republic of Azerbaijan to these instruments and to take steps in this direction.
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

1.4. Implementation of measures on extension of treaty-law framework improving the legal status of the citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan living in foreign countries and regulating the protection of their rights
The Republic of Azerbaijan takes the necessary steps to ensure the rights and freedoms of all its citizens regardless of their location. For this purpose, the agreements must be concluded with the relevant states and their competent authorities to ensure the rights of citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan residing in foreign countries.
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

Chapter Two
Protection of rights of various population groups

This chapter defines activities aimed at better protection of the rights and freedoms of various population groups, including those considered vulnerable in terms of exercise of human rights – refugees and internally displaced persons, prisoners, military servicemen, women, children, elderly people, persons with disabilities, etc. A number of important measures have already been taken in these directions, as well as joint projects have been implemented with the international organizations to protect the human rights of these groups. Besides, a
systematic continuation of activities in these areas makes it necessary to implement additional measures.

2.1. **Continuation of the work with international organizations to inform the world community of mass violations of the rights of the persons who have become refugees and internally displaced persons as a result of Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan, as well as of the fact of destruction of Azerbaijan’s natural, historical and cultural wealth as a result of occupation, and to seek compensation for the damage caused by Armenia to them**
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

2.2. **Continuation of the activities to preserve and develop the cultural heritage of ethnic minorities**
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

2.3. **Strengthening the rights of entrepreneurs and consumers**
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

2.4. **Improvement of the competitiveness of the unemployed persons in labor market and organization of the courses for learning new professions**
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

2.5. **Strengthening the protection of worker’s labor rights and increasing the effectiveness of measures in the field of ensuring the labor safety in industrial and construction activity**
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

2.6. **Increasing the effectiveness of the measures in the field of ensuring the right to peaceful enjoyment of property**
Implementing institutions: Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, State
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

2.7. Conduction of extensive awareness campaign among the population, especially children and young people, for a healthy environment and healthy lifestyle, rehabilitation of those suffering from drug-addiction, alcoholism and HIV/AIDS infected persons
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

2.8. Training of specialized medical personnel, teachers and social workers in order to improve the quality of education, professional training of and services provided to the disabled and children with restricted abilities (social services, inclusive education, etc.)
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

2.9. Conduction of research and improvement of the monitoring system to secure the rights of elderly people
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

2.10. Continuation of the measures to bring the conditions at places of detention in line with international standards
Time-limit: 2012-2015

2.11. Continuation of the work on the construction of new penitentiary establishments in order to ensure the conformity of conditions of detention of the sentenced persons to international standards
Time-limit: 2012-2015

2.12. Involvement of public and non-governmental organizations in correcting sentenced persons, application of public oversight procedures and study the best practices in this area
Implementing institutions: Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Commissioner
for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

2.13. Increasing the competitiveness of women in the labor market, development of private entrepreneurship among the women, arrangement of courses for the women for acquiring new professions
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

2.14. Preparation of rehabilitation programs for women who have been subjected to domestic violence
Time-limit: 2012-2013

2.15. Strengthening the fight against violence, including domestic violence against women, securing the legal remedies, necessary compensation, rehabilitation, medical and psychological assistance to the victims of such violence
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

2.16. Preparation of TV programs on educating and enlightening the children, as well as study the possibility of establishing a children’s television
Time-limit: 2012-2013

2.17. Strengthening the measures to fulfill the commitments arising from the international conventions on child labor and documents of the International Labor Organization
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

2.18. Cooperation with the nongovernmental and international organizations in fighting homelessness and in social rehabilitation of underage children
2.19. Establishing the crisis centers in the regions for the victims of violence and human trafficking, persons without support to life and the persons in need of treatment for drug-addiction and alcoholism
Implementing institution: Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

2.20. Supporting the activities of “legal clinics” functioning under higher education institutions
Time-limit: 2012-2015

2.21. Undertaking the measures to improve the environmental situation in order to secure the right of the population to live in a healthy environment and to prevent environmental pollution
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

2.22. Arrangement of the courses on the exercise of the freedom of speech and thought for the mass media
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

Chapter Three
Improving the activity of government agencies

3.1. Profound investigation of the violations of law and human rights, abuse, abuse of office and other similar offences during detention, arrest, keeping a person in pretrial detention facilities and implement necessary measures
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.
3.2. Building up capacity, development of national instruments to combat corruption and continuation of institutional reform in this area


3.3. Preparation of an action plan for subsequent years to ensure transparency in the activities of government agencies and combating corruption

Thanks to the implementation of the “Action Plan related to the execution of the national strategy on improving transparency and the fight against corruption (2007-2011)”, approved by the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated 28 July 2007, substantial progress has been achieved in this area. Considering the importance of the fight against corruption, an action plan for the coming years is to be adopted.


3.4. Ensuring the provision of electronic services by government agencies

The Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On certain measures in the field of providing electronic services by government agencies” indicates that in order to ensure a modern and flexible management, increase transparency of government activities and prevent phenomena contributing to corruption, it is necessary to provide the population with electronic services. With this aim, the official web-sites of central executive authorities must have a section on electronic services, a list of documents required for the provision of such services and receipt of electronic applications together with the required documents. In order to ensure the execution of the said Order, a resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated 24 November 2011 approved a “Procedure for the provision of electronic services by central executive authorities” and “The list of electronic services”. Issues relating to the provision of electronic services by government agencies are regulated by the said Procedure, while “The list of electronic services” establishes specifies the electronic services provided by each government agency. The “Electronic government” portal has already been created and a number of government agencies connected to it. Measures are taken to connect all government agencies providing electronic services to the portal.

3.4.1. Introduction of the E-Government portal


3.4.2. Ensuring provision of electronic services

3.4.3. **Provision of the government agencies with the electronic signature**  
Time-limit: 2012

3.4.4. **Creation of regional terminals of electronic applications and encouraging people to use such terminals in order to expand application opportunities**  
Time-limit: 2012-2015

3.5. **Improvement of the efficiency of enforcement procedures in order to ensure timely and accurate execution of court judgments**  
Timely and accurate execution of court judgments is part of the right to justice. Thanks to the measures taken in recent years, including the amendments to national legislation, a number of problems in this area have been eliminated.  
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

3.6. **Extensive use of the topics related to the international conventions on human rights and studying of the international experience in this area during the training of judges and candidates to the judicial position, law enforcement officials and lawyers**  
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

3.7. **Conduct of research on the application by courts of the Republic of Azerbaijan of the provisions of international instruments regulating the protection of human rights**  
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

3.8. **Organization of training for law enforcement officers and media representatives in order to ensure the presumption of innocence of persons**  
Implementing institutions: Administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.  
Time-limit: 2012-2013

3.9. **Strengthening of the Bar Association of the Republic of Azerbaijan, improvement of the efficiency and independence of its activities and increasing the number of professional lawyers in regions**  
Time-limit: 2012-2013

3.10. **Continuation of specialized courses on the electoral law for members of election commissions**  
Implementing institutions: Central Election Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan.  
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.
Chapter Four
Educational, scientific analytical and enlightenment activities in the area of human rights

4.1. Organization of the study of the requirements of the Convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and its Optional Protocol by officials of law enforcement and other relevant agencies, as well as lawyers and representatives of nongovernmental organizations with expertise in law
Time-limit: 2012

4.2. Conduct of educational and other necessary activities to ensure effective fulfillment of the functions of the national preventive mechanism in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
Time-limit: 2012

4.3. Preparation of training manuals on human rights in line with the “Enlightenment of human rights” and “Education for Human Rights” proclaimed by the UN General Assembly, the Global Program on human rights education of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UNESCO Decades “Education for Sustainable Development”
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

4.4. Enhancing of teaching of human rights at specialized vocational and higher education institutions and develop stage-by-stage teaching of the rights of the child in secondary schools
Time-limit: 2012-2015

4.5. Continuation of conducting competitions, exhibitions and other activities on the human rights among pupils and students
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.
4.6. Continuation of work on preparation, publication and dissemination of educational and visual aids, booklets and posters on human rights
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

4.7. Improvement of scientific research work on human rights and freedoms at higher education and research institutions
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

4.8. In order to promote the UNESCO principle “Education for All” and facilitate a more effective protection of human rights and freedoms, preparation of trainers in the field of legal education for different population groups (women, children, youth, disabled, elderly, refugees and internally displaced persons, prisoners, soldiers, drug addicts and people with HIV/AIDS infection)
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

4.9. Establishment of specialized human rights centers (school of human rights, house of human rights, etc) or networks in order to improve effectiveness of education in the field of human rights and facilitate proper coordination in this sphere
Time-limit: 2012

4.10. Conduct of awareness activities in order to develop a proper culture of law, prevent discrimination, promote a culture of peace and tolerance and national and spiritual values of our people
Time-limit: 2012-2015

4.11. Prevention of crime that poses a serious threat to human rights and freedoms, such as aggression, terrorism, corruption, human trafficking, to continue activities both within the country and abroad (roundtables, seminars, conferences, etc.) on the theme of dialogue among cultures and religions and to strengthen religious tolerance
Implementing institutions: Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan,
4.12. Translation into Azerbaijani and dissemination among relevant agencies of the judgments and decisions of the European Court of Human Rights
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

4.13. Ensuring the study of international instruments on human rights, in particular the European Convention on Human Rights, on the part of civil servants, members of the judiciary, prosecutors, officials of law enforcement agencies and lawyers, members of staff and regional centers of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan and members of municipalities
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

4.14. Improvement of cooperation with international scientific research and educational institutions with expertise in human rights
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

4.15. Development of human rights sections of libraries
Time-limit: 2012-2015

4.16. Conduct of awareness activities involving explanation of the national legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan on access to information and securing effective access to information
Time-limit: 2012-2015

4.17. Creation and development of web-sites of government agencies engaged in the field of human rights
Implementing institutions: Administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan,
Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 
Fund on State Assistance to Mass Media under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. 
Time-limit: 2012-2015

4.18. Preparation of volunteers for educating the population in reproductive health and 
family planning issues
Implementing institutions: Ministry Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan. 
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

Chapter Five
Cooperation with international organizations in the field of human rights

5.1. Preparation and implementation of joint projects with specialized institutions of the 
United Nations and international regional organizations
The implementation of cooperation programs of the Republic of Azerbaijan with various 
institutions of the UN, including the organizations specializing in human rights –High 
Commissioner for Refugees, UNESCO, UNICEF, the World Bank, as well as the Council of 
Europe, the European Union, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, 
Organization of Islamic Cooperation and other regional organizations has proved the 
importance of such programs. These programs also create an opportunity to apply the 
international experience and to invite international experts to the process of reforms in the 
country. 
Implementing institutions: Administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 
Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the 
Republic of Azerbaijan and other relevant government agencies. 
Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

5.2. Implementation of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Azerbaijan for 2012-2013
Commenced in 1995 the cooperation of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Council of 
Europe is being successfully continued in the field of judiciary, fight against corruption, 
youth dimension, development of civil society and other spheres. As part of the Action Plan 
envisaged for the next few years jointly with the Council of Europe, additional measures will 
be taken in these areas. 
Implementing institutions: Administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 
Ministries of Internal Affairs, National Security, Justice, Youth and Sport, Foreign Affairs of 
the Republic of Azerbaijan, Commission on Combating Corruption of the Republic of 
Azerbaijan, Financial Monitoring Service under the Central Bank of the Republic of 
Azerbaijan, Agent of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan at the European Court of 
Human Rights, Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of 
Azerbaijan. 
Time-limit: 2012-2013

5.3. Development of a fruitful cooperation with the UN Council for Human Rights to 
promote and implement the UN Millennium Develop Goals
In accordance with the National Action Plan on the Protection of Human Rights in the 
Republic of Azerbaijan, approved by the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan 
on 28 December 2006 and in order to promote and implement UN Millennium Development 
Goals, relevant government agencies of the Republic of Azerbaijan established cooperation 
with the UN Council for Human Rights. 
Implementing institutions: the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Economic Development, Health 
of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the
Chapter Six
Coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the National Program for Action

6.1. The Working Group for coordination of the implementation of the National Program for Action, comprised of representatives of implementing institutions, shall regularly inform the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan about its activities.

6.2. The Administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan shall analyze the information provided by the Working Group for coordination of the implementation of the National Program for Action and submit proposals to improve it.

6.3. The Working Group shall organize, together with representatives of local executive authorities, municipalities, judicial, internal affairs bodies and the prosecutor’s office, local NGOs, mass media, communities and other relevant structures, public hearings, seminars, roundtables, conferences, and television and radio broadcasts aimed at promotion and effective implementation National Program for Action.

6.4. In order to effectively secure the rights and freedoms, the National Program for Action might be regularly updated.