**Information about the provision of drinking water and sanitation in the area of gender issues in Azerbaijan**

1. Solving gender issues at the state level:

1.1. Ratification the Convention on the "Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" (1995).

1.2. Ratification the Optional Protocol (2000)

1.3. Establishment the State Committee for Women (1998 Decree of the President. Since 2006, the State Committee for Family, Women and Children).

1.4. Adoption of the Law "On gender equality" (2006)

1.5. Adoption of the law "On Prevention of Domestic Violence" (2010)

1.6. Adoption of the low "On protection of public health" (1997)

1.7. Adoption of the State Programs:

- "To reduce poverty and social and economic development" (2008-2015) and others.

To date, more than 50 international conventions and declarations of the United Nations protecting human including women rights were ratified by Azerbaijan.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was a landmark agreement approving the goal of gender equality in the framework of human rights. The Beijing Platform for Action (BPA) includes specific commitments on issues "Women and Environment" with an emphasis on the right of universal access to water. The introduction of these measures contributed to the decision of the gender and women's issues.

The National Council of Youth Organizations of Azerbaijan brings together more than 50 non-governmental youth organizations. The leaders of 21 organizations are young women. Between 1996 and now the National Council of Youth Organizations of Azerbaijan carried out tens of both international and national projects aimed at the implementation of the strategies of the Beijing Platform for Action, the outcome document of the 23rd special session of the UN General Assembly.

In accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Article 41), every citizen has the right to protect his health and to get medical care. Women have the same rights as men. Moreover, every woman has the right to the protection of health in connection with the birth of children. In order to provide free medical care for every citizen in the country established a system of hospitals and clinics to protect the health of mothers and children, children and women's health centers.

We know that access to clean water and safe sanitation is recognized as a universal and fundamental human right, and in our country, to solve these problems is a priority. Given the fact that the foundation is to ensure the health of the population of ecologically clean water, the country carried out the political, financial and technical measures to achieve the Millennium Development Goals on water and sanitation.

Published data (GLAAS and JMP for 2013) of the Joint Monitoring Program of UNICEF / WHO indicate increased access to improved water sources: urban population -98%, -74% of the rural population, the overall rate -87%. Data on sanitation are as follows: urban population - 94%, rural population - 78%, total index - 87%.As a result of the implementation of state programs and projects on construction and reconstruction of water supply and sewerage systems in the country have achieved concrete results in this area. Therefore, if in previous years, 55% of the population to provide uninterrupted drinking water supply, it is now, this figure increased by 7.5% to 62.5%.

In 2014, in 25 cities of the country has completed the commissioning of the centralized water supply in the 27 cities of the district centers and administrative work continues. Thus, 480 thousand people are provided with drinking water, including 175 thousand people got water from centralized water supply systems for the first time.

To date indicators of access to drinking water in the capital has increased from 55% to 80%. Therefore, if in 2005 the centralized water supply system provided 1.56 million people, but now it covers 2.366 million people.

Carrying out activities aimed at the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in accordance with the "socio-economic development of the regions of the republic" (2014-2018 years), "Program of socio-economic development of Baku and its settlements" (2014-2016) made it possible to improve the environmental the situation in the capital and in regional centers. Therefore, to improve access to sanitation on the Absheron Peninsula carried out construction of sewer lines 80 km long. According to the project maintenance of the national system of water supply and expansion of water supply systems, sewerage systems in the period since 2010 in 14 regional centers (Oguz, Zagatala, Shabran, Lankaran, Bilasuvar, Saatli, Siyazan, Guba, Kusary, Shamkir, Tovuz, Agstafa, Shamakhi, Goychay) began the construction of the sewerage network. During this period, in areas of the country have been carried out sewer lines with a total length of 2750 km and a storm water drain 44 km long.

In 2012-2014, it laid the beginning of the development of the project of reconstruction of water and sewage systems in the 40-district centers (Khachmaz, Gusar, Khizi, Saatli, Sabirabad, Zardab, Lankaran, Bilasuvar, Oguz, Zagatala, Shabran, Siyazan, Guba, Gusar, Shamkir , Tovuz, Agstafa, Shamakhi, Hajigabul, Goranboy, Goygol, Ganja, Sheki, Goychay, Agdash, Gabala, Lerik, Yardimli, Astara, Jalilabad, Gadabay, Dashkasan, Ujar, Kurdamir, Ismayilli, Agsu, Gobustan, Ter-Ter) to these works allocated public funding in the amount of 864.7 mln. AZN in the national currency. To the sewer system in these regional centers to develop the project provides for the construction and connection of sewer lines nearby villages.

Tangible progress has been made in the provision of rural settlements of small-scale water supply systems in accordance with the decree of the President of Azerbaijan on 20.07.2007 year №2245 «On some measures to improve access to clean water." For example, in regions of the country for people living in the valley of the rivers Kur and Araz in the intervening period it established 320 local water treatment facilities in rural settlements, covering more than 530 thousand people. Number of created artificial springs - 3102 with a daily distribution of water 20 m3 / day - 60 m3 / day per inhabitant

The project of the National access to water and sanitation in 17 towns and district centers performed work on providing the population with sustainable water and sanitation. Ongoing work on the construction of a 5 reservoirs with volume 80.000 m3 in different regions of the country.

As a result of construction and reconstruction of the Shirvan-Mugan group water in Aran economic region populations of the five cities (Bilasuvar, Neftchala, Salyan, Shirvan, Hajigabul) 121 rural settlement 470 thousand people are provided with uninterrupted water supply quality. In addition, 16 regional centers of the Republic commissioned water main networks.

As you can see, the above contributed to the implementation of commitments to ensure quality drinking water to the population.

Serious consideration was given access to drinking water supply and sanitation for schoolchildren. So, for the period 2003-2014 in the Republic it was built in and improved 2793 new schools (52%). Carried out major repairs to the 708 schools with the upgrade of infrastructure. Thus, for schoolchildren more than 550 thousand schoolchildren take all measures to improve hygiene practices, access to improved water supply and sanitation.

As can be seen from the above, the country carried out activities that contribute to improving access to water and sanitation, thereby improving the quality of life of the general population, in particular women. With regard to gender-specific needs, such as hygiene menstrual period, it should be noted that in Azerbaijan for a long historical period has accumulated rich experience in the field of training of the younger generation. We develop unique customs and traditions. Regulations, instructions regulate the observance of a healthy lifestyle in adolescence: wash the external genitalia, the replacement of sanitary napkins at least 3 times a day.

It should be noted the special role of the school in the formation of healthy lifestyle of students. In order to ensure continuity and focus sanitation and hygiene education in schools puberty in secondary schools of the Republic introduced a program in biology for pupils of VIII, IX and XI classes. This program helps pupils learn the skills of a healthy lifestyle and build knowledge of sexual development. In order to ensure equal access to information, knit with sexual and reproductive health among young people distributed printed edition where the disclosure of information about the benefits, risks and effectiveness of all methods of birth control, the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and the promotion of these rights.