



**STATEMENT BY**

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FOR FAMILY, WOMEN AND CHILDREN AFFAIRS OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

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**Mr./Ms. Chair,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished participants,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Government of Azerbaijan Republic I would like to congratulate all of us with the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which has had a great impact on the raising of women issues in the world. Celebrating this anniversary we must recall the names of those women who played an important role in the struggle for women's rights. I would like to mention that all women from Azerbaijan who actively participated in Beijing conference are holding leading position in the country.

Azerbaijan has showed strong support and commitment to the Beijing Platform of Action and attaches high importance to its implementation. The leadership of the state has taken the main principles of the Platform for the advancement of women and ensuring gender equality in all spheres. The concept of gender budgeting has been developed and the gender factor is being taken in consideration during the distribution of financial resources. All legislation, state programs and projects are passing through the gender review and expertise. Adoption of a number of state programs and legislation aimed at women's empowerment has had a great impact on increasing of women's activity. They not only reinforced the legislative background in the field of women rights but also contribute to strengthen capacity

and develop concrete services for women, build women's capabilities and position them as agents of change towards sustainable development.

Strengthening the state machinery for the advancement of women by establishment of the regional Family Support Centers was a very important achievement in strengthening the institutional framework to address the key gender issues. These regional centers as alternative service model carries out an important work in communities and create a community-based rehabilitation network in regions for women and children. The budget allocation for necessary activities ensuring gender equality and women's empowerment has increased from 600 thousand USD since 2009 to more than 1 and a half million USD.

The gender problems compose the main part of a new development concept of the government" Azerbaijan -2020. Such special measures as prevention gender violence, creation equal opportunities for women on the labor market, promotion women at work and expanding their opportunities to occupy leading positions are defined as the main direction of the state policy. A number of such special documents as a national action plan on gender equality, creation of the system to monitor evasion of education and early marriages are being worked out for the implementation. In this framework , Adoption of Rules of Overseeing the Provision of Gender Equality" which determines concrete duties of public authorities related to gender expertise of state programs, as well as provision of gender equality, is now under consideration at the Cabinet of Ministers.

We actively use an international experience on gender initiative with the support of international organizations and our bilateral relations with the Western and Eastern countries. I will mention only some of them:

The EU Twinning project on Promotion and protecting the rights of vulnerable families and women jointly with French General Directorate on Social Cohesion;

“Strengthening Women’s political participation” and “Women in Local governance  
“with German International Cooperation;

“Empowering Women Victims of Domestic Violence with Improved Socio-Economic Capacity and Gender Awareness “ with EU, UNFPA and IOM.

All of them have great impact on increasing of women’s activity. They not only reinforced the legislative background in the field of women rights but also contribute to strengthen our capacity and develop concrete services for women in the regions.

Our country has become the host of important international conferences on women issues. The World Forum on the role of women in intercultural dialogue, the Ministerial Conference on women’s role in the development of OIC member states, International conference on women in strengthening religious tolerance, Forums of Women Entrepreneurs are just few of them.

Azerbaijan women are represented in all spheres of our society. We are seriously working on adjusting women to the changing needs of the society and economy by conducting vocational trainings, research and skills development. The government has taken concrete measures to challenge prevalent stereotypes and to encourage women to participate actively in political and public life especially in the regions and rural areas. In this work we succeed to create strong partnership with NGOs. We should emphasize the role of the Council of State Support to NGOs under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In

2010-2015 two million USD were allocated to NGOs to implement 331 projects, including 15 on gender equality, 23 projects on combating violence and 12 on early marriages.

In combating stereotypes we start prophylactic work from early ages .It helps young generation in awareness raising campaigns and choosing correct orientation in the life. With this goal in every two years we conduct All-Republican Forum of Children-Leaders. Girls jointly with state officials and members of parliament analyze and express opinions about challenges they encounter and try to find ways to solve them.

National Congresses of Azerbaijan women also have been very important in demonstrating the potential of women and their ability to make changes in society. In 2011 2000 women representing all regions of Azerbaijan participated at the Fourth Congress under the motto” Unity for the development”. Women are very active in political and public organizations. For example 46 % of the members of the Leading New Azerbaijan Party are women. There is special Women Council of the political parties which positively influence on enhancement of the role of women in the political life of the country.

By implementing projects on participation of women in politics, including Mentorship and the Women’s Participation programs, we try to increasing representation of women during elections. As a result significant progress has been achieved at the municipal level. Representation of women in municipalities increased from 4 % in 2004 to 27% in 2009 and 35 % in 2014 elections. With the special intention to increase the activity of women in regions, the President, H.E.Ilham Aliyev issued the special order on women appointment to position of Deputy Heads of executive power. As a result we have now 76 women on this

position out of 86 regions. This decision has forthcoming goal on increasing number of women on leading positions.

In responding to today's challenges we want to see educated and highly sophisticated Azerbaijan women without any differences between central and rural areas. Government strives to build women's human capital and capabilities and position them as agents of change towards sustainable development. That's why the government prioritizes the provision of high quality education services to the population, especially women as a strategic line. Besides beginning reforms on the development of the education system ( 2009-2014),government increased volume of funding by 3 times . In accordance with the "State Program on education of Azerbaijan youth in foreign countries in 2007-2015" 1500 girls form total 3185 young people were sent for study abroad at the expense of the state on all levels of education.

Large scale work is also conducted on increasing level of children's involvement in pre-school education .By the special imitative of the First Lady, new support measures are carried out for expanding the chain of state ,municipal and community kindergartens, preschool institutions in all regions. The gender perspective was also incorporated in the reforming process.

Gender Studies were integrated into College and University Curricula .Besides revising and approving curricula on different gender courses, now there is a new position of Representative on Gender Issues within the ministerial structure, whose main mission is achievement of gender balance in the educational system. Out of a total of 42 higher institutions in Azerbaijan, Gender Studies was introduced into the curriculum of six

universities with the establishment of gender-related literature libraries and resource centers. Special trainings on raising awareness of university professors and school teachers on the problem of gender equality have been conducted.

Government has increased the funding to the healthcare system. A state program to improve women's and children's health have been worked out for 2012-2020 and preventive checkups , mass health examinations, including introduction of free mandatory medical insurance among children and women is being intensified. The Ministry of Health has developed the National Strategy for the Protection of Reproductive Health of the Population which is based on the situation analysis and results of the National Reproductive Health Strategy.

One of the components of women's active participation in political and public life is their economic independence. The state adopted a set of measures aimed at ensuring women's employment, including fostering women's entrepreneurship. They facilitate poverty reduction, ensure advance in women's economic and social performance and in many cases eliminate gender based discrimination in society. We have achieved the decrease of the poverty rate among women from 49 % to 5,9 % in due to the implementation of the State Program on "Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development in 2008-2015

Appropriate projects are being prepared and implemented to prevent the isolation of the disabled women from society and to enable them to use the infrastructure without hindrance. In order to develop their skills and increase their employment opportunities, the government increases the number of social and professional rehabilitation enterprises. The special

trainings are being conducted in order to provide disabled girls and women with opportunities to benefit from information and communication technologies.

In order to ensure a healthy and active lifestyle for the youth and their integration into society, a strategy for the development of the Azerbaijani youth is being implemented. The network of information and counseling services for young people, especially those living in remote and rural areas has been expanded. 30 Youth Houses are functioning in the regions and conducting awareness raising trainings and seminars on violence, early marriages and etc.

We still have the unsatisfactory level of women's participation in conflict prevention and resolution, disaster risk management and government takes necessary measures and educational work to strengthen their role in this field .Gradually a gender perspective is being integrated in all aspects of crisis management and peace building process. Jointly with the Ministry of Emergency Situation we have started trainings for women on gender perspective of disaster risk reduction from the regions with high risk of natural disasters. A coalition of women from Parliament, state agencies, the NGO community, political parties and mass media was created in Azerbaijan to support of Resolution 1325. In the framework of regional project "Women for Conflict Prevention and Peace Building in the Southern Caucasus", advocacy work for increasing the role of Azerbaijan women in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution at the national, regional and international levels has been conducted. This "Coalition 1325" involved women refugees and IDPs in peace building process, promoted the culture of peace and establish cooperation with women



coalition working on similar issues abroad. Today women from this coalition are very active on high level posts, for example in national parliament, central election committee and etc.

**Distinguished participants,**

I believe the above-mentioned measures, being only part of all work done for full implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action by the Azerbaijani government, will serve as good examples of our full commitment toward the implementation of the Convention and readiness to overcome every challenge along the way to gender equality. Despite of world economic crises, continuation of the conflict and violation of cease fire regime resulting in innocent victims among the population, Azerbaijan government aimed on improvement position of women in the country .We, however, acknowledge that much remains to be done, and that we face certain challenges along the way, which we are striving to overcome.

Once again I would like to express the firm commitment of the government of Azerbaijan to the norms and obligations stipulated in Beijing Platform of Action.

Thank you for attention.