

National Program for Action to Raise Effectiveness of the Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms in the Republic of Azerbaijan

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

1.1. Drafting laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan relying upon the principal criterion of human rights and freedoms secured in the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the international treaties to which Azerbaijan is a signatory.

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.

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

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

Implementing institutions: Ministries of Justice, Internal Affairs, National Security, Defense, Education, Health, Labor and Social Security of the Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, The Bar Association of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Council on State Support for nongovernmental organizations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

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

Implementing institutions: Ministries of Justice, Internal Affairs, National Security, Defense, Education, Health, Labor and Social Security of the Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Bar Association of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

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”

Implementing institutions: Ministries of Education, Justice of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Scientific Research Institute for Human Rights of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences.

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

Implementing institutions: Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ministries of Education, Justice of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Time-limit: 2012-2015

4.5. Continuation of conducting competitions, exhibitions and other activities on the human rights among pupils and students

Implementing institutions: Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ministries of Education, Youth and Sport, Culture and Tourism, Justice of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the human rights ombudsman of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

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

Implementing institutions: the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Scientific Research Institute for Human Rights of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

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

Implementing institutions: Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Scientific Research Institute for Human Rights of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences.

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)

Implementing institutions: Ministries of Internal Affairs, Justice, Education, Labor and Social Security of the Population, Youth and Sport, Defense, Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan, State Committee for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons of the Republic of Azerbaijan, State Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the problems of the family, women and children, State Committee for work with religious associations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

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

Implementing institutions: Ministry Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Scientific Research Institute for Human Rights of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences.

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

Implementing institutions: Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ministries of Internal Affairs, Justice, Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, State Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the problems of the family, women and children, State Committee for work with religious associations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

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,

Administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, State Committee for work with religious associations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Time-limit: 2012-2015

4.12. Translation into Azerbaijani and dissemination among relevant agencies of the judgments and decisions of the European Court of Human Rights

Implementing institutions: Agent of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan before the European Court of Human Rights, Ministries of Justice, Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Supreme Court of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

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

Implementing institutions: Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ministries of Internal Affairs, Justice, Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Bar Association Of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

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

Implementing institutions: Ministries of Justice, Foreign Affairs, Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Scientific Research Institute for Human Rights of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences.

Time-limit: this activity shall be implemented permanently.

4.15. Development of human rights sections of libraries

Implementing institutions: Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ministries of Education, Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Scientific Research Institute for Human Rights of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

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

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

4.17. 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