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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
AT GENEVA



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DİGƏR BEYNƏLXALQ TƏŞKİLATLAR YANINDA
DAİMİ NÜMAYƏNDƏLİYİ

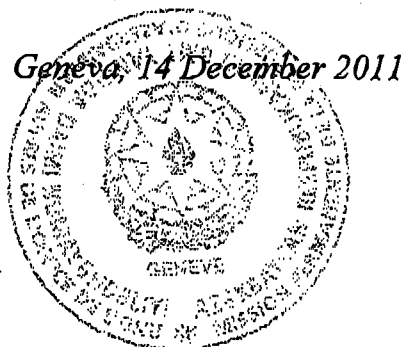
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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and with reference to the latter's Note Ref. Nr. GVA 0616 dated 29 September 2011, has the honor to transmit herewith the responses of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the questionnaire on the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application elaborated by the independent expert in the field of cultural rights.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations at Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosure: 4 pages.



THE OFFICE OF THE UN HIGH
COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
GENEVA

OHCHR REGISTRY

15 DEC 2011

Recipients: SPD
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What legal, administrative and policy measures exist or are planned in your country:

- a) To ensure that marginalized groups benefit from scientific progress and its applications, including women, persons with disabilities, minority groups, rural communities and indigenous peoples?**

Regional Information Centers were created for visually impaired persons in various cities of Azerbaijan within the framework of the project "Centre for Regional Information Technologies for persons with disabilities". The project is carried out together by the Government of Azerbaijan, "Heydar Aliyev Foundation" and UNDP. Specialized computer classes for disabled persons and their family members has been opened in the town of Mingchevir, within the framework of the efforts made for the increase of computerizing and usage of the Internet in regions. In general, nowadays more than 60 thousand people benefit from the above mentioned centers.

For the first time in the world minicomputer test models with voice control have been prepared for visually impaired persons with the order and support of the Government of Azerbaijan and Heydar Aliyev Foundation. Currently, computers with voice control, internet portal and browser for visually impaired persons have been made within the framework of "Dilmanjh" project.

In 2008-2009 computer and professional courses for women- refugees and forced migrants in Baku and other regions (Fizuli, Agdam, Bilasuvar.) were organized within the framework of the project on "Prevention of sexual violence among women - IDP-s and refugees". The project was implemented in cooperation with UNHCR and the NGO "Women Society for Rational Development".

- b) To promote research and development in areas specifically relevant to marginalized groups, by for example, providing incentives for innovative research on neglected diseases?**

There are many scientific medical research centers in Azerbaijan which are specifically

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working on different areas of medical science.

In 2010 World Health Organization published the list of neglected diseases. There are 17 of them. Except the Hansen disease, rabies, leishmaniasis and echinococcosis none of them is found in the territory of Azerbaijan.

There are legal, administrative and policy measures in Azerbaijan for the prevention, treatment and scientific research of some neglected diseases.

Statistics and epidemiology of leprosy is not alarming. There are up to 52 registered patients with leprosy in the country where population is over 9 million.

The Department of Epidemiology of Azerbaijan Medical University, Scientific Center of Medical Prevention and Scientific Center of Surgery conduct regular research on rabies, echinococcosis and leishmaniasis.

c) To ensure and facilitate broad access to information and communication technologies (e.g., computers, Internet and mobile phones)?

Azerbaijan is one of the first countries which adopted National Strategy on ICT in accordance with the decision taken during the UN Millennium Summit in 2000. At the same time, consistent reforms were made for the improvement of legal framework for ICT. In this regard, "Law on Telecommunication", "Law on Mail", "Law on Personal Information", "Law on Obtaining Information" and others were adopted.

In order to provide the population with computers which function with licensed programs and to increase the usage of ICT in regions, rather than cities the project named "Computers for people" was launched. As for the beginning, teachers, students and pupils of higher educational establishments and secondary schools were able to get computers for 25-30 % cheaper than market price and for credit with interest free loan.

As the result of the development of national segment of internet, decrease of the price for internet, application of the state of the art, as well as broadband, wireless and mobile

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phone connections to internet and creation of favourable conditions for the operation of Internet providers the number of internet users reached to 60% of the population.

Thanks to the adoption of the "State Program on informatization of the educational system in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2008-2012" Educational Network of Azerbaijan was created and 1100 secondary schools are provided with high speed Internet.

d) To identify and develop the scientific applications necessary for sustainable solutions to ensure the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, access to potable water and sanitation, and to address climate change?

In 2010-2011 awareness raising courses under the title "Live your every day in comfort manner", which focused on raising awareness of population on family planning and personal hygiene in Baku and other regions (Astara, Masalli, Lerik, Yardimli, Djalilabad, Bilasuvar, Neftchala, Salyan) was organized by the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs in cooperation with NGO "Dawn".

The right of scientists and collaborative work

4) What measures have been put in place to recognize, respect and protect the rights of scientists?

b) To collaborate with colleagues nationally and internationally, including through sharing data, samples, research findings, and other information, by traveling freely within and outside the country, and conducting joint research projects?

In order to enlarge the international scientific relations of Azerbaijan the National Grid segment (AZGRID) was created in the Institute of Physics of the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan (NASA). High speed Internet channel has been organized to provide access to the European Research Center (CERN, Geneva) via GEANT 2 network, which connects national and educational networks of Europe. The AZGRID infrastructure contributed to the implementation of joint projects and to solution of science based issues.

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Participatory decision-making and transparency

In 2009 on the eve of elections to municipality the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan held awareness raising campaign for women in the field of electoral legislation in order to provide active participation of women in elections. In the framework of campaign booklets under the title "Women and municipality" were spread among active women in regions. As the result participation of women in elections raised and number of women-members of municipality increased from 4% up to 27%.

8. What steps have/are being taken to promote quality science education at all levels for all, in particular for girls, rural populations and the poor?

Students from IDP families are exempted from educational fee for the academic year of 2011/2012.