



**Permanent Mission
of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the UN Office and other
International Organizations**

GENEVA

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and with reference to the call for inputs dated 17 July 2023, has the honour to transmit herewith the information received from the relevant authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan in response to the questionnaire on local government and human rights.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in 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: 2 pages

Geneva, 22 September 2023



**Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Human Rights
GENEVA**

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Information for the questionnaire

1. What capacity building initiatives have been implemented for implementation/incorporation of human rights in local governments?

a. Functioning, duties and rights of the municipalities are regulated with the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On the Status of Municipalities". Ensuring collegiality in their activities and active participation of municipality members in local self-government is directly connected with permanent commissions' effective activities. Commissions "On youth work and sports" and "On gender issues and prevention of domestic violence" have been established within a number of municipalities.

Commissions on gender issues and prevention of domestic violence closely cooperates with organizations operating in this area in order to identify families at risk, carry out preventive work with them, provide necessary legal and psychological aid to the victims of violence. The purpose of the commissions is to ensure increased sensitivity of municipalities to gender issues, systematic and coordinated work on gender issues, prompt consideration of the appeals of the population living in villages and settlements, especially appeals of women on gender issues.

The establishment of the commissions on youth work and sports has given an impetus to the expansion of the participation of young people, distinguished by their activity in local life to the broad representation of young people in the field of local self-government, close cooperation with youth organizations and public institutions, further development of physical education and sports in the regions.

Municipal capacity building and training of specialized staff in the field of municipal administration have been identified as a priority issues in the National Action Plans on the promotion of open government, protection of human rights, fight against corruption, and also the Development Concept "Azerbaijan 2020: a look into the future". Important measures ensuring the development of municipalities, increasing their responsibility to the local population have been identified in many state programs.

b. The Public Council consisting of prominent human rights defenders has been operating under the Minister of Justice since 2006 in order to ensure public control and transparency in the field of justice. Members of the Public Council actively participate in competitions on admission to service held by the Ministry of Justice, in meetings of the Board and the Board of Appeal, they are also involved in the work of monitoring teams, in the execution of acts of pardon and amnesty, in the process of conditional early release of convicts from punishment.

It should be noted that, regarding the execution of the "National Action Plan on the Promotion of Open Government for 2020-2022" approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan from February 27, 2020 in judicial authorities an appropriate measures have been taken

in order to promote public participation in the field of local self-government, also the Public Council under the Ministry of Justice decided to establish the relevant Committee consisting of civil society representatives.

Systematic regulation of state building policy, constitutional protection of human rights and freedoms in our country have created conditions for more active involvement of citizens in the work of local self-government authorities and increased their role in building local democracy.

Creation of public councils under municipalities is in the focus of the municipalities taking into account the need to establish close relations with civil society institutions and to increase efficiency in the field of application of the institute of public participation in local self-government in order to ensure human rights and freedoms, to increase citizen satisfaction, to increase confidence among the population in local self-government authorities.

c. According to legislation, population have the authority to constantly monitor the activities of the their municipality, request a report on the work it has done, to obtain information, to make substantive proposals in order to revitalize the work of local self-government authorities, to take joint measures in order to eliminate the reasons that provoke drawbacks.

Many important provisions aimed at ensuring transparency and accountability of the activities of municipalities are reflected in the legislative acts regulating their activities. So, according to the requirements of existing legislation, municipalities shall submit a report to the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan and to their voters once a year.

The report covers the work done by the municipality during the year, as well as issues related to the use of municipal property, local budget execution (collection of local taxes and fees, expenditure of budget funds), consideration of applications and complaints of citizens, their reception, implemented projects and etc.

It was also recommended to increase activity in social networks and the "facebook" pages of Coordination Councils of mayors, municipalities have been created in order to inform the public about the municipal activities in detail, to ensure accessibility for citizens. In addition, the brochures about the work done is prepared, printed and distributed to citizens on the territory of those municipalities in order to inform the public of the country about the role of municipalities in the implementation of measures in social, economic and other fields.