



## **The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

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### **Annual Discussion on Integration of a Gender Perspective**

Madame President,

Undoubtedly, the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights of women is the crucial pillar for the efficient realization of women's human rights, leading to the empowerment of women in society. Having said that, we welcome today's annual discussion dedicated to the very subject, which we believe to be a value-added opportunity for the evaluation of progress made, identification of best practices as well as challenges being experienced.

The Republic of Azerbaijan is a party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights since 1992 and we are one of first signatories to the OP to the very Convention. Comprehensive information on the realization of women's economic, social and cultural rights in Azerbaijan, has been included in our third periodic report to the Committee on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights and we do look forward to the dialogue with the Committee to take place next year. Time constraints does not provide enough space for detailed information on the measures realized by the Government on women's economic, social and cultural rights, but let me underline that the Government of Azerbaijan focuses on good education which we believe to eliminate gender stereotypes for decreasing discrimination in business and work.

In 2011 the unemployment rate among women decreased to 6.4% from 7.7% in comparison with 2005.

The Presidential Decree on "Implementation of the State Woman Policy in the Republic of Azerbaijan" of March, 2011 agitates consideration of gender equality in economic reforms, as well as provision of equal representation of women and men in decision-making in the governmental authorities.

To conclude, I would like to address the following question to Mr. Moez Doraid:

The most egregious gap between men and women is still in the world of work and do you think that the practice of some governments on imposing a quota for women on the board of all state-owned and quoted companies could pave the way for the solution of the very issue?

Thank you, Madame President.