



Check against delivery

**UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-fifth Session**

**Individual Interactive Dialogue with
the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in
practice**

**Statement
delivered by Aydan Muradova, Third Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the
Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in
Geneva**

June 8, 2017

Mr. Vice-President,

At the outset, on behalf of the Government of Azerbaijan, I would like to thank the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice for the presented comprehensive report as well as commend the valuable work it has carried out within the past 6 years since its establishment in September 2010.

Guaranteed and efficient gender equality is one of the main prerequisites for the sustainable human development, as well as an important step to overcome the stagnation of social progress.

Azerbaijan attaches particular importance to ensuring gender equality and women's empowerment in all spheres. The Government of Azerbaijan is fully committed to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. In this regard, a number of programs, policies and laws have been adopted in Azerbaijan to address women's rights issues generally and violence against women specifically.

Gender equality issue is one of the essential parts in the "Azerbaijan-2020: look into the future" Development Concept which is based on the vision for the country in the year 2020. According to this document the gender problem in the country will remain in the center of attention and appropriate measures will be taken to resolve it. The main direction of the state policy in this sphere will be to take measures to prevent gender violence, create equal opportunities for women and men on the labour market, promote women at work and expand their opportunities to occupy leading positions.

Various projects aimed at encouraging women's participation in political, social, economic life and advancing gender equality such as "The promotion of women's participation in economic and social life in rural and regional areas", "Preparing women specialists and developing women entrepreneurship in regions of Azerbaijan", "Women leadership in Self-Governance", "Increasing women participation in municipal election", "Enabling civil society to play a greater role in advancing gender equality and women's rights" have been implemented.

It is important to mention that the successful work on ensuring women's empowerment in Azerbaijan is being carried out on the background of the aggression against my country and the existing problem of more than 1 million refugees and IDPs in

Azerbaijan, the majority of whom are women and children. In this regard, projects and programs aimed at ensuring full integration of refugee and internally displaced women into the society such as increasing employment level of refugee and IDP women, ensuring their access to education, health, as well as preventing gender-based violence among internally displaced persons and asylum seekers/refugees have been continuously conducted.

From its own experience Azerbaijan is also very well acquainted with and strongly condemns all acts of violence committed against women and girls in situations of armed conflict. All necessary measures must be taken to bring perpetrators of such acts to justice and to put an end to impunity.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our commitment to further promotion and protection of the rights of women, and to prevent any form of discrimination and violence against women in Azerbaijan.

I thank you for your attention.