

**THEMATIC COMPILATION OF RELEVANT INFORMATION SUBMITTED
BY AZERBAIJAN**

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PARTICIPATION OF SOCIETY

AZERBAIJAN (SECOND MEETING)

Commission set up exemplary model of cooperation and working relations with numerous NGO's and involved them into joint prevention activities. Commission strengthened such cooperation by becoming the member of Anti-Corruption Information Network of NGO's specialized in the area of fight against corruption and supported several projects of preventive character, carried out by them. Network comprises 25 NGOs specialized in combating corruption including local chapter of the Transparency International – TI-Azerbaijan, Fund for Struggle against Corruption, Young Lawyers Association of Azerbaijan, etc (www.anticorrupt.net.az). This framework of cooperation increased the efficiency, speeded-up interaction and boosted ideas for joint projects. Such innovative ideas included financial and logistical support of the NGOs by Commission, with a view to increase their capacities and material technical base; organization of public hearings and public awareness projects in regions; conduct of surveys and etc.

In September 2007 and 2009, the Commission entrusted Anti-Corruption Information Network of NGO's with the implementation of public survey and study, aimed at providing clearer insight into the extent of corruption in Azerbaijan, its causes, features and the sectors most affected by it. Network also acts as useful resource for all its members as it grants access to all its facilities and resources for its member organizations.

Representatives of the Commission take part in Network's meetings which facilitates exchange of information and ideas. Evaluation Reports on implementation of the National Strategy for Increasing Transparency and Combating Corruption have considerably improved thanks to the assistance and input provided by Network members. At the same time civil society members are represented in Working Groups acting under the Commission. This WG has formulated a number of Bills in the area of fight against corruption.

NGOs also have the opportunity to benefit from the resources of the Council of State Support to Non-Governmental Organizations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which allocates grants to NGO projects. Council has set anti-corruption and governance issues as one of the priority areas.

Realization of the renowned webpage project www.rusum.az came as a result of successful cooperation with NGO. Webpage includes information on all tariffs and duties

collected by state bodies in return of services, provide means for sending complaints and appeals to all state bodies, as well as information on legislation related to state duties and tariffs. Project also provides online legal aid, interactive communication with users and regular updates in the form of e-letters to its users.