

## ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICY IN AZERBAIJAN

Mr. Chairman,

**Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to the organizers for the excellent arrangement of this event.**

Using this opportunity I would like here to draw your attention to recent developments in anti-corruption reforms and implementation of UNCAC in Azerbaijan.

During the period passed since adoption of convention, the fight against corruption remained as one of the key-priorities of state policy, anti-corruption reforms, prosecution of corruption offences and implementation of preventive measures has been continued.

On 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2016 National Action Plan on Open Government Partnership for years of 2016-2018 has been approved by the Presidential Decree, and currently is being implemented. Measures aimed at combating corruption are also integrated into this Action Plan which is a bright example of strong political will to eradicate corruption and its negative effects. I especially would like to emphasize that as the Republic of Azerbaijan is paying special attention to international cooperation, recommendations of our partners from the UNODC, GRECO and OECD have also been taken into account while drafting Action Plan. To be more specific, I can cite measures such as introduction of relevant legislation and mechanisms on prevention of the conflict of interests in the activity of the civil servants and officials, implementation of the system of asset declarations by public officials, introduction of procedural provisions on corporate criminal liability and plea bargaining, preparation and adoption of ethics rules of MPs, preparation of activities plan on implementation of international requirements in field of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing are some examples of anti-corruption measures envisaged in the Action Plan. To the day draft legislation on procedural aspects of criminal liability of legal entities, ethic rules for MPs are presented to

the Parliament for review. Moreover legislation on whistleblower protection has recently been enacted.

The Anti-Corruption Directorate with the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Azerbaijan acting as a specialized anti-corruption law enforcement body continued its successful activity in the field of criminal prosecution of corruption. Within passed 10 month of this year preliminary investigation of 161 criminal cases, covering 262 public officials including high ranking governmental officials have been conducted and finished by the Directorate, and those cases were passed to the relevant courts for consideration.

In addition to prosecution, preventive anti-corruption measures also have been continued.

State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations operating since 2012 is a good example of effective mechanism to combat corruption in public administration sector. Through its Delivery Centers called ASAN Service the Agency offers wide range of public services on “one stop-shop” principle. In the last few years the Agency has reviewed more than 12 million applications from citizens. In 2016, two new Service Centers were opened and number of Service Centers reached 11 covering major cities and regions of the country.

Mr. Chairman,

As I mentioned in my speech, Azerbaijan, specifically the Anti-Corruption Directorate fruitfully cooperates with variety of international and regional organizations. One of them is the International Association of Prosecutors which is the first and only worldwide organization of prosecutors that was by the way established here - in Vienna in the Office of United Nations in 1995 with the support of the UNODC.

Moreover, in 2003-2004 the Republic of Azerbaijan ratified the UNCAC, Council of Europe Conventions on Corruption, became a member to the Council of Europe's GRECO, and also member of the Anti-Corruption Network of the OECD. We are not member of the OECD, however we cooperate with this organization within the framework of the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan which is a sub-regional peer-review programme launched in 2003 in the framework of the Anticorruption Network and it supports anti-corruption reforms through country reviews and continuous monitoring of participating countries' implementation of recommendations to assist in the implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption and other international standards and best practice. Currently we are in the fourth monitoring round.

I wish you a fruitful Conference.

**Thank you for your kind attention.**

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