

## **Strengthening Gender Integration in BTR and NDC**

**Speech by Ms. Bahar Muradova, member of the COP29 Organizing Committee and Chair of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs**

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**Esteemed guests, ladies and gentlemen!**

Today the climate changes and natural disasters impacting our world, along with other global environmental issues, present risks to the future humanity. It is necessary for countries and the international community to unite their efforts at all levels to emerge from this situation with minimal damage.

Azerbaijan has developed a necessary legislative framework focused on environmental protection, enabling the country to meet its commitments through various programs. We have established institutional mechanisms and a favorable investment environment.

The core principles of COP activities also emphasizing inclusivity and gender equality.

Azerbaijan deeply believes that mobilizing the potential population groups - children and youth, women, and vulnerable communities - will contribute to solving the problems created by climate change.

Although Azerbaijan has faced with 30 years' war experience which, has exacerbated climate changes and environmental challenges, along with territorial, economic, and human losses, the country believes that the key of effectively addressing this crisis lies on joint efforts of international security, peace and stability.

By promoting a peace agenda in the South Caucasus, Azerbaijan contributes development through large-scale reconstruction and restoration efforts on green economy and renewable energy.

We are also proud of our joint efforts to increase opportunities for climate and gender justice, which are among the key priorities of climate policy. By advancing our efforts in this direction through the mechanisms of the **BTR** (Biennial Transparency Report) and **NDCs** (the Nationally Determined Contributions), we can seize the unique opportunity.

Strengthening gender integration in mitigation, ensuring transparency, accountability, and equal participation not only as a means of equality but also as a powerful tool for the rights of women and girls.

I would like to mention the Multidimensional Cluster Survey conducted in Azerbaijan.

By considering this and other data collection formats, applying gender-sensitive indicators, we can uncover the existing gender inequalities to climate change.

In line with our international and national commitments, the draft "National Action Plan for Gender Equality" has been developed. One of the main priorities of the Plan is **"Adaptation measures considering the impact of climate change on gender equality, and the risks to women and children."**

The implementation of the Plan will raise awareness among the population and decision-makers regarding the gender aspects of climate change.

For your information, the State Committee submits an annual report to our National Assembly -Milli Majlis. This report reflects the results of coordinated activities carried out by the involved parties throughout the year to ensure gender equality. This process helps us increase accountability, transparency, and efficiency in gender-related matters.

Among Azerbaijan's climate targets, ensuring women's access to environmental issues and increasing their participation hold a special place.

As a country facing water scarcity, we address this issue with a gender-sensitive approach. The topic of **Water and Gender Equality** remains on the agenda of relevant state authorities.

Azerbaijan's socio-economic development agenda aims to improve women's access to economic opportunities. The scope of small and medium-sized enterprises among rural women is expanding by **ASAN** and **DOST** services.

The sustainability of **Women's Resource Centers** which were created with the partnership of UN organizations is being provided by the State Committee now.

In Azerbaijan, 48 percent of the working population is engaged in agriculture, with women comprising 49 percent and men 51 percent. Supporting those working in agriculture, especially women, and implementing gender-sensitive measures is one of the national priorities.

A **Joint Action Plan** (2020-2023) to support "**Green Agriculture**" has already been implemented in the country. This plan includes a range of multi-dimensional measures aimed at mitigating the negative environmental impacts.

Within the framework of COP29, as part of our commitment to making gender equality as a fundamental principle in all climate policies, I believe that every country, without exception, should establish national platforms for gender equality when preparing and implementing Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This will empower women, girls, and other vulnerable groups to actively participate in shaping climate actions and monitoring project implementation.

The application of gender-responsive models in **climate financing** will support gender equality in climate action.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that gender equality in **BTR** and **NDCs** is not just a target, but a critical condition for a sustainable and just climate future.

Supporting these initiatives will allow us to make gender equality an integral part of our climate change policies, and together contribute to building a stronger and more inclusive society.

I call on each of you to join these efforts and goals.

**Thank you all for the important work you are doing!**