

Excellencies,

I would like to extend my greetings and wish success!

Over the past thirty years, we have made great progress in gender equality worldwide guided by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Last year, gender issues were a key focus at COP twenty-nine in Azerbaijan, where a "Gender Day" was held for the first time. It also adopted the ten-year Revised Lima Work Program.

The State Committee of Azerbaijan is the main body responsible for gender equality and women's empowerment. The parliamentary committee has a similar role in the legislative branch. Annually, The National Assembly actively discusses the implementation status of the "Law on Guarantees of Gender Equality".

In the regions, Support and Resource Centers, Gender Commissions in municipalities, and gender focal points in central and local executive bodies are working effectively.

Thanks to the coordinated efforts of institutional and civil society organizations notable progress were made in protecting women rights.

We made new regulatory norms in the legislation to prevent domestic violence, child marriages, and relative marriages.

Relevant monitoring and coordination groups were established under the local executive authorities coordinated by the Committee. The implementation of the "National Action Plan on Combating Domestic Violence" successfully completed, and currently, a new one has been developed. The draft of the "National Action Plan on Gender Equality" has also been updated.

We implementing a number of projects and programs aimed at expanding educational opportunities for women and young girls.

Women's political participation and representation in decision-making are increasing every year. During the last elections, female members of parliament has increased to twenty-one percent (20.8%), and in municipalities to thirty-nine (39%).

Elevating the number of women in decision making is an important step, but achieving true gender equality requires active involvement from them to participate in gender-sensitive reforms for more effective implementation of gender equality.

It should be noted that the greatest violence against humanity comes from unjust wars, occupation, and acts of ethnic cleansing. We have also suffered the most from these scourges. Although now, Azerbaijan has restored its territorial integrity and sovereignty, the devastating results of the decades-long occupation continue to impact our civilians.

Among them is the fate of about four thousand (4000) missing citizens of Azerbaijan, including seventy-five children and hundred sixteen women.

At the same time, mine contamination of the liberated territories hinders the reconstruction and rehabilitation works there and slows the return of IDPs to their homes. Since two thousand and twenty almost four hundred people have become victims of landmine explosions, either been killed or injured.

From this esteemed platform, I want to emphasize that, all countries must intensify their efforts for peace and ensure accountability for such crimes to prevent them happening again.

In conclusion, I believe that our future efforts, in line with the Beijing Declaration, will contribute to women's equal participation in all areas.

Thank you!