



STATEMENT BY

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FOR FAMILY, WOMEN AND CHILDREN AFFAIRS OF
THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

AT THE

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OF WOMEN**

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Mr. Chairperson,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Azerbaijan Republic I would like to congratulate all of us with the fifteenth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which has had a great impact on the raising of women issues in the world. Celebrating this anniversary we must recall the names of those women who played an important role in the struggle for women's rights. Azerbaijan was one of the first who accepted this Platform and as example institutional machinery and mechanisms for the advancement of women were created. We have showed strong support and commitment to the Beijing Platform of Action by activation the state programs aimed at the achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. New legislations have been adopted and introduced within this period. After adoption of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On state guarantees of gender equality" all relevant amendments were made to other legislative acts in accordance with this Law.

A gender budgeting system was introduced and this new concept for the state budgeting system of Azerbaijan has had a direct impact on ensuring gender equality.

There is no such a sphere where our women are not represented now. We have women judges, generals, oil workers, deputies of the parliament, high level state officials and etc. National Congresses of Azerbaijani women, town-hall meetings and conferences of women lawyers, journalists, entrepreneurs and NGOs are organized continually in all regions. These events have become very important in demonstrating the enormous potential and role of women in our society and allow creation of interconnection and networks between the state and non-governmental structures in the sphere of women empowerment and gender equality.

Significant progress has been made in number of areas. For example, we consider the results of the latest elections to the municipality as a big achievement. With the support of the leadership of the country and proper gender policy of the state a number of women in municipalities has increased from 4 % in 2004 to 27 % in 2009 and 302 women have been elected to the high positions.

An enormous work against gender based violence is being conducted in the country .We are lobbying a Law "On the prevention of domestic violence "which is on the agenda of the Parliament and we are expecting its soonest adoption.

I want to mention specially that despite of global economic crisis none of the social programs was stopped. The special amounts were assigned in the state

budget for social protection of the children, women and families. Azerbaijan government incorporated gender as one of the key elements in the poverty reduction and sustainable development strategies. Women's capacities and access to employment opportunities have been increased.

Government strengthened programs to support women entrepreneurs, providing gender equality in the process of developing small enterprises, trainings and access to credit.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact of continuation of the aggression against our state and to the fate of the hundreds of women, children and elderly hostages and prisoners of war, and also to the problems of women refugees and IDPs. Our government continues to give priority attention to this problem and implement targeted measures for the preventing of their marginalization and ensuring refugees access to the education, employment, health and full integration into society especially since this is one of the critical areas of concerns and challenges in implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

In conclusion, I would like to commend the activities of the Commission on the Status of Women for valuable contribution to the process of the gender equality across the world. Every year sessions give member states opportunity to exchange experience and opinions and we fully support your activities aimed to achieve new level of opportunities for women.

Thank you for your attention.