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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written submission by the Azerbaijan: Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman)*

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council hereby transmits the communication submitted by the Azerbaijan: Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman)**, reproduced below in accordance with rule 7(b) of the rules of procedures described in the annex to Council resolution 5/1, according to which participation of national human rights institutions is to be based on arrangements and practices agreed upon by the Commission on Human Rights, including resolution 2005/74 of 20 April 2005.

* National human rights institution with “A”-status accreditation from the Global Alliance of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

** Reproduced in the annex as received, in the language of submission only.

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Annex

[English only]

Submission by the Azerbaijan: Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman)

Innovative approach and initiatives of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan in legal education

The activities of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which is functioning as A status NHRI, in the field of legal education of various groups of population and raising awareness on human rights are developed being based on innovative approach and initiatives in this field by multilateral cooperation with government bodies, international and national non-governmental organizations and communities.

The aim of legal education activities is to form legal knowledge and legal culture, to improve the capacities of the citizens and non-citizens, everybody under jurisdiction of the country, in protection of human rights, also consolidation of all stakeholders, motivation of all groups of population with their active participation in sustainable development processes and good governance, their inclusiveness in public participation at the decision-making level.

For sustainability and regular ongoing processes, educating trainings of trainers were organized for teaching different groups of population. Gender and age sensitive special legal education programs for each group of population have been developed.

Taking into consideration proposal of the Commissioner, National Program for Action to Raise Effectiveness of the Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms in the Republic of Azerbaijan (NAP) was approved by the Presidential Decree of 27 December 2011. According to this Program, it was recommended to the Commissioner to lead the activity of the working group on coordination of the implementation of NAP.

In order to evaluate its implementation and to prepare reports, the monitoring is conducted as well as discussions with participation of representatives of appropriate bodies are carried out. With this purpose, regularly a range of public hearings are held in all country regions including about 60 cities and rural districts, also IDP settlements where legal awareness raising events for people are conducted. Representatives of local executive bodies, municipalities, constituency and precinct election commissions, local non-governmental organizations, mass media, communities and members of Central Election Commission participate in those events.

Public hearings are effective for legal education of the people, increasing activity of citizens, ensuring the right of everyone to participate, democratization and improving the administration. Specialized advisors of the Ombudsman for protection of human rights of different groups of population (on refugees, IDPs, migrants, on women's, children's rights, on persons with disabilities, on elderly persons, on detainees and prisoners, on military servants) and in different directions of promotion and protection of human rights such as gender equality, health issues, human trafficking, corruption, drug addiction and HIV/AIDS, on civil and political rights, business and human rights, on economic, social and cultural rights, as well as national preventive mechanism against torture and violence, on peace and tolerance, on ecological rights, access to information, freedom of speech, cooperation with mass media, on scientific-analytical work, improving legislation, freedom

of religion and conscience, also on legal awareness, scientific-analytical, information and international relations, on international relations etc. have been appointed. Specialized advisors regularly analyze the national and international legislation, situation in the country and prepare recommendations for improving the work, covering the issues of legal education to send to the governmental bodies. They regularly prepare teaching materials and organize special addressed trainings for each group of population corresponding to their responsibilities.

There is legal education unit at the office that coordinates awareness-raising work conducted in different fields, prepares special teaching modules and organizes the appropriate events.

Commissioner makes recommendations on improving legislation in legal education. UN Convention against discrimination in Education was signed and then ratified upon the recommendation of the Ombudsman which is important for Azerbaijan as multiethnic country with over than 80 national minorities. National legislation is improved in compliance with this Convention.

The office regularly organizes trainings, round-tables on human rights protection and promotion in Baku and regions with the participation of parliamentarians, representatives of local executive bodies, commissions on minors, court, police department, judicial bodies, prosecutors' office, also education, health bodies, municipalities, workers of child institutions, civil society organizations, children and young people.

At the same time, the Commissioner organizes the regional trainings for medical personnel covering the provision of medical service complying with European standards to treatment of people with mental disorders jointly with the Ministry of Health.

One of the good practices in human rights education and legal awareness raising activity realized by the initiative of the Commissioner is hierarchic education system of child rights at secondary schools. The main purpose of the hierarchic education of child rights is to raise awareness on rights and responsibilities of children enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and national legislation being based on peer-to-peer method with inclusiveness and participation of children themselves.

"Convention on the Rights of the Child" and Manual named "Selected topics on hierarchic education of child rights" and other training materials that were prepared at the Ombudsman Office are being distributed among the participants. Child Rights training centers were set up in relevant educational facilities, moreover, Azerbaijan model has been formed by developing special legal education aimed at children on the basis of relevant teaching aids.

The above mentioned program is implemented being based on provisions of NAP, as well as "Awareness Raising on Human Rights" and "Education on Human Rights" declared by the UN General Assembly, also UNESCO "Education for Sustainable Development" Decade.

Till now, hierarchic child rights education is realized in 12 districts of the capital and 30 districts of the country regions covering more than 130 secondary schools.

Each week public officials, experts, scientists and staff members of the Ombudsman Office provide lectures for children in the child resource center of Ombudsman - Azerbaijan Child and Youth Peace Network (ACYPN) and Leadership School and interactive discussions raise awareness on their rights.

Legal education events are being conducted in cooperation with UNICEF for police staff, advocates, workers in child institutions. Trainings were held for children in Child Creativity Centers in rural districts under the Ministry of Education.

Ombudsman Office periodically conducts educational work on campaigning human rights and freedoms of refugees, IDPs, migrants, stateless persons and asylum seekers with

UNHCR and UNICEF. For this purpose, it was published the child-friendly version of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Azerbaijani language.

Also Ombudsman Office and UNHCR agreed to jointly implement two important projects aimed to raise awareness on gender based violence as a crime among IDP population that is crucial for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Another project is the Quality Initiative Eastern Europe (QIEE) Project in the frame of which set of events were implemented by the Ombudsman Office jointly with State Migration Service (SMS) in partnership with UNHCR. During the project implementation period, Ombudsman Office in cooperation with the UNHCR and SMS conducted capacity-building activities for the law-enforcement personnel, border-guards, police and prosecutor office in the border regions. The activities also targeted judiciary. Also Ombudsman Office closely cooperate with International Organization for Migration (IOM) in implementation of the project titled "Establishing Effective Mechanisms Safeguarding the Rights of Persons Involved in Migration in Azerbaijan" to support the development and strengthening of legal, regulatory, policy and institutional frameworks, to enhance the upholding of the rights and freedoms of migrants.

On the basis of the manual adopted, Ombudsman Office in cooperation with IOM is being developed a targeted training curriculum and organize a training of trainers (ToTs) on human rights of migrants for government officials and civil society organizations. As a follow up to the ToTs, a series of trainings on protecting human rights of migrants will be conducted.

In the frames of the UNESCO Movement "Education for All" every week Ombudsman Office organizes trainings, seminars for the members of Ombudsman's Resource Center for the Elderly Persons on different topics such as healthy lifestyle and negative aspects of HIV/AIDS, drug-addiction, alcoholism, psychology etc. They closely cooperate with the members of ACYPN and it serves to build bridge between generations.

Several trainings, round-tables were conducted regarding persons with disabilities with their participation, also including issues on inclusive education for children with limited physical capacities. Legal awareness-raising activities are held also for detained and imprisoned persons, also children in conflict with the law in Correction Unit of the Ministry of Justice, as well for military servants.

On the initiative of the Commissioner, "Human Rights" as well as "Introduction to the Gender" are conducted as separate subjects at the university. Moreover, manual based on Collection of Lectures on Human Rights taught at Baku State University is printed.

On the initiative of the Commissioner, UNESCO Human Rights Clinic was set up at Baku State University launching training of professional lawyers among bachelor's and master's degree students.

Short-term Education Network is functioning regularly at the Ombudsman Office to train professionals on human rights.

Bachelor's and master's degree students of Law, International Law and International Relations, Political Management, Region Studies and international Relations, Economics and Management, International Relations faculties of Baku State University, Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan University of Languages, Baku Slavic University have internship at the Ombudsman Office.

Internees acquire both practical and theoretical knowledge on human rights during the internship, get acquainted with the structure and directions of the Ombudsman Office, learn the procedure of preparing relevant inquiries, participate in reception of complainers. Hundreds bachelor and master degree students gained experience and received references.

During the terms of office of the Commissioner, 170 publications were prepared; over 23 foreign literature on human rights and good governance were translated into Azerbaijani language, 49 educational tools were translated from Azerbaijani into English language; whereas 37 were translated into Russian and published; also those publications were dispensed among wide audience and libraries.

During trainings, seminars all our 170 publications – manuals, books, booklets, leaflets, brochures, posters are also used.

Human Rights Month-long campaign on the occasion of 18 June- National Human Rights Day; Month of Peace, on 21 September – International day of Peace; Child Rights Month-long Campaign on anniversary of the adoption of the UN CRC traditionally are held at the initiative of the Commissioner and with active participation of state authorities, city and regional executive bodies, municipalities, and civil society also contribute to effectively ensuring human rights and freedoms. Furthermore, the activities carried out in each month-long campaign are analyzed and reflected in the articles written by the Commissioner, published in national newspapers.

Several trainings, seminars, conferences are organized in collaboration with UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCHR, UNESCO, UNFPA. Also staff of Ombudsman participates in international events, conducts study visits and exchange their work experience. Till now 13 Baku International Conferences of Ombudsmen were held by the office on different actual topics with the participation of NHRIs of several countries.

Complementary Reports are prepared and submitted to relevant treaty bodies, also on UPR. Commissioner closely cooperates with international organizations, UN and its specialized bodies, European Union, Council of Europe, OSCE, International Labor Organization and other international organizations. Commissioner actively participates in Twinning, Eastern Partnership, TAIEX projects of European Union, as well as in other programs.

The Commissioner issued over 100 statements on different emerging topics and genocide days against Azerbaijanis and other issues and addressed to international organizations, diplomatic representatives in Azerbaijan and embassies of Azerbaijan in foreign countries and to different Azerbaijan Diaspora organizations abroad.

During our activity, over 500 recommendations were sent to governmental bodies 60 percent of which are taken into consideration by the country Parliament and executive bodies.

Main outcomes achieved as a result of legal education activity at the office is forming legal knowledge and culture, preparing dozens of specialists in human rights promotion and protection, improving leadership of women, young people, children, their inclusiveness and participation.