November 27, 2019

Excellencies.

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Azerbaijan reaffirms its commitment to the Beijing Platform for Action and recognizes that incorporating a gender perspective in different areas of development ensures effective achievement of other social and economic goals. Thus, the principle of gender equality is being used in all newly approved policies and programs for the country’s development and achievement of the SDGs.

After implementation of a series of governmental programs we can see increase in women’s activeness in different spheres. Women take part actively in civil-society building by asserting their presence in both political and public organizations. More than 200 of approximately 2 000 non-governmental organizations are women NGOs dealing with different aspects of women issues. 49 % of the members of the Leading New Azerbaijan Party are women. There are special Women Councils of the political parties which positively influence on enhancement of the role of women in the political life of the country.

In 2017 appointment of the woman as the First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, second-highest constitutional post in the country, after the President, should be highlighted as one of the crucial achievements. Women are more and more involved in the decision making process. The Vice Speaker of the Parliament, The Ombudsperson, 4 Deputy Ministers are women. The number of women in Parliament is 20%. The representation of women at municipal level has increased from 4% (2004 elections) to 35% in the elections of 2014. Bearing in the mind that
education is the key to the advancement of women, government tries to improve the access of women to quality higher education. The number of women studying at higher education institutions was 80 thousand in 2017-2018. The role of women in the field of science is also significant. 46 % of PhDs and 51 % of all scientific workers are women. The Government has taken measures and awareness raising campaigns to challenge gender stereotypes related to the choice of jobs and to encourage girls and women to seek education and training in non-traditional fields. Special quota exams are held for women to work in the State Custom and Board services, Ministry of Emergency and police forces.

Government believes that creating possibilities for young girls helps them to realize their potential and believe in their abilities, Trainings are organized for young girls on global trends in the ICT sector, digital entrepreneurship, the robotics and the tech industries. Special STEM camps are being organized for girls to inspire them to become generation of girl leaders and help them to reach their own potential.

The state pays great attention to the development of women's entrepreneurship. Practice shows that the economic independence of women helps prevent many serious problems in families, including domestic violence. To ensure the attraction of more women in each region, Women's Resource Centers were created. These Centers strengthen efforts in addressing the needs and concerns of rural women in the area of economic and social participation. They offer women and girls free access to library resources, internet, computers, trainings and etc. An impressive network of more than 6000 rural women was created through these centers. As a result, in 2018 share of women entrepreneurs in small and medium business reached 35 %, in 2015 –27 %, while earlier their share was only 4 percent.
We still have more than a million refugees and IDPs as a result of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. A great work is being carried out for their re-integration into the society. The state does its best in order to provide this group of women with deserved education, medical insurance and normal living standard.

Government of Azerbaijan is in a strong position to invest in supporting women’s empowerment and gender equality and we look forward to strengthened partnership to address these gaps and challenges.

Thank you for attention