



Progress towards implementing the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2012-2015

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Distinguished participants,

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to the Council of Europe and the Croatian authorities for the organisation of such a high level conference related to children and family issues. It is a great pleasure for me to participate and represent my country in this event.

State and family always have responsibility in the formation of children as a worthy personality and citizen. In this regard the Government of Azerbaijan pays special attention to children's issues. Provision of children with effective education, high level medical service, support and care, healthy environment and their formation as a worthy personality are the main principles of the child policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Modern legal basis on child issues has been formed during the last years. Thus, the adoption of more than 80 laws and 30 state programmes are examples of the state's care to these spheres. One of the recent and important child reforms is the adoption of the "Regulation and implementation of State Control over the Right of Children" under the Presidential decree 2012. The aim of the State Control is protection of rights and interests of the children defined by the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan, provision of suitable condition for the realisation of children rights and elimination of the children rights violation. The adoption of this document has improved the control and coordination system between state bodies on the provision of the children rights.

The State Committee for Family, Woman and Children Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan in cooperation with UNICEF has conducted awareness-raising companies on prevention of early marriages, girl drop-outs from education and research work on analysing the situation of registration of new born children. One of these projects was analysing the situation of street children. According to the survey prepared in 2013, the research work has been conducted with the aim of investigation of protection system of the children from the violence. As a result of the research it was revealed that the specialists working in this field need special capacity building trainings.

2009 was declared as the Year of Child and Children. Forums were held in 2009 and 2011 with the participation thousands of children from all regions and villages in Azerbaijan to inspire children to participate actively in the social life of the country. This year we are going to hold the third Forum of Children in Azerbaijan. The Forum is organised at the initiative of children and they submit all proposals to the State bodies and the National Parliament. Children organise their Association and voluntarily conduct different trainings and community level hearings for the different group of children.

A number of social projects related to the issues of orphans and children deprived from parental care are realised by the government. The state program on De-institutionalization and Alternative Care (covering 2006-2015) aimed at reintegration of children residing currently in various state institutions (de-institutionalization) with biological or foster families and at creation of alternative care services to support the de-institutionalization process. As a result of this programme the number of children deprived from parental care has decreased 6-7 times compared to 2006.

One of the successful projects in provision of alternative care is the Model of Children and Family Support Centres. There are eleven Children and Family support centres acting under the State Committee for Family, Woman and Children Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. These centres are the alternative care model which is combing the support to risk group families, women and children. These centres also provide trainings for children and teenagers, psychological and juridical consultations.

Cooperation between the state and NGOs plays important role in the achievements on the protection of children's rights. There are more than 100 NGOs on children's issues. The Development Strategy on "Azerbaijan 2020 look into the future" was adopted for increasing the progress on the provision of reliable protection of the children rights. According to the conception the adoption of "Azerbaijan Family Strategy", "Child Strategy" and Child Code, improvement of "family psychology" institution, organisation of shelters for the victims of the domestic violence, provision of effective monitoring system on early marriages and girls dropout from education are planned to be realised.

Dear Friends,

We are living in the world of great changes and development processes that have a great impact on children issues and demand a new view and solutions to this field. So, need for cooperation among the states shows its importance once more.

Thank you for your attention!