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for
THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ANAS	Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences
ASPnet	Associated Schools Project Network
BR (s)	Biosphere reserve (s)
ADB	Asian Development Bank
CI	Communication and Information
CLT	Culture
COMEST	World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
ECCE	Early Childhood Care and Education
ED	Education
EFA	Education for All
EFA FTI	Education for All Fast Track Initiative
ENVSEC	Environment and Security Initiative
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFTAM	Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
GUAM	Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Moldova regional co-operation group
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HQ	Headquarters
ICOM	International Council of Museums
ICT (s)	Information and Communication Technology (ies)
IDP (s)	Internally Displaced Person (s)
IDU	Intravenous Drug Use
IGCP	International Geosciences Programme
IGO (s)	Intergovernmental Organization (s)
IPDC	International Programme for the Development of Communication
IIEP	International Institute for Educational Planning
LPA	Local Public Authorities
MCT	Ministry of Culture and Tourism
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MENR	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOEY	Ministry of Education and Youth
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NCURA	National Commission for UNESCO of the Republic of Azerbaijan
NGO (s)	Non-Governmental Organization (s)
NRHS	National Reproductive Health Strategy
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OSCE	The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
RBM	Results Based Management
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
SC	Science
SD	Sustainable Development
SHS	Social and Human Sciences
SPPRSD	State Programme for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development
SPRFSP	State Programme on Reliable Food Supply for the Population
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
STI	Science, Technology and Innovation
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UCPD	UNESCO Country Programming Document
UMO	UNESCO Moscow Office
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDESD	United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESS	UNESCO National Education Support Strategies
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UNESCO Country Programming Document (UCPD) for the Republic of Azerbaijan (2011-2013), herein referred to as UCPD-Azerbaijan, is based on the analysis of the current situation and priorities of the country in the fields of education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture, communication and information, and HIV and AIDS prevention.

Efforts were made to ensure that the UCPD-Azerbaijan is aligned with the national development goals as defined in the country's main development document, the State Programme for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development (SPPRSD), which has been drawn in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The following nine goals have been identified for the SPPRSD 2008–2015:

- ensuring sustainable economic development through maintaining macroeconomic stability and balanced development of the non-oil sector;
- increasing income-generating opportunities and pulling substantial numbers of citizens out of poverty;
- reducing social risks for older age groups, low-income families and vulnerable segments of the population by developing an effective social protection system;
- continuing the systematic implementation of activities aimed at improving the living conditions of refugees and IDPs;
- improving the quality of and ensuring equal access to affordable basic health and education services;
- developing social infrastructure, improving public utilities system;
- improving the environmental situation and ensuring sustainable environmental management;
- promoting and protecting gender equality;
- continuing the process of institutional reform and improving good governance.

The UCPD-Azerbaijan is connected with and complementary to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the Republic of Azerbaijan (2011-2015), which is aimed at establishing an overarching framework for all UN agencies operating in the country.

The UN in the Republic of Azerbaijan within UNDAF focuses on three broad areas of economic development, social development and governance, which have been established as the basis for formulating three UNDAF Outcomes. The present UCPD-Azerbaijan is prepared in line with the Country Programme outcomes outlined in UNDAF.

The UCPD-Azerbaijan was developed based on previous experience and as a result of the analytical studies conducted by national experts, and in consultation with the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO. It seeks to identify opportunities for the most effective response to the country's needs within UNESCO's fields of competence, in line with the Organization's Medium-Term Strategy for 2008–2013 and priorities set up for the 2010–2011 biennium in the UNESCO's Programme and Budget (35 C/5). Another objective was to identify achieved and expected results, main challenges and lessons learnt, and to make proposals for the future cooperation and partnerships framework.

UNESCO's cooperation with the Republic of Azerbaijan will contribute to:

- Enhancing support to Early Childhood Care and Education policy development;
- Development of the national policy and strategy for science, technology and innovation, making a particular emphasis on girls' access to these fields;

- Measures to develop decent work opportunities for women and men in regions through promotion of cultural tourism;
- Efforts to strengthen national capacity to enable long-term transition towards Green Economy, sustainable production, consumption and resource management, taking into account a gender equality perspective;
- Strengthening the role of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- Achievement of progress towards a knowledge society through increased use of ICT in education, with a particular focus on girls, especially in secondary and higher education;
- Capacity development of the national media to report on climate change, including gender specific dimensions of the implications of climate change, regional disparities and issues of particular concern to women, young girls and boys, vulnerable and marginalized groups.

The Republic of Azerbaijan Statistics: Fast Facts	
General information	
Year of joining UNESCO	1992
Form of government	Presidential Republic
Capital	Baku
Population ¹	8, 779. 8 thousand
Surface area in sq km	86,600
Economic performance²	
GDP per capita (PPP US\$), 2007	7,851
Distribution of income: Gini index	36.5
Human development³	
Human Development Index (HDI) ⁴	2010: 0.713
Life expectancy at birth, 2009 ⁵	73.5 years (males: 70.9; females: 76.1)
Human Poverty Index (HPI-1) ⁶ , 2009	10.7%
Multidimensional poverty index ⁷ , 2010	0.021

¹ Data as of 1st July 2008. http://www.azerbaijan.az/portal/General/Population/population_e.html.

² Human Development Report Azerbaijan 2009.

³ Human Development Report Azerbaijan 2009; data available in the Report' Statistical Tables and in the Fact Sheets.

⁴ HDI ranks between 0 and 1.

⁵ State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan: <http://www.azstat.org/statinfo/demographic/en/016.shtml#s4>.

⁶ The HPI-1 value of 10.7% for Azerbaijan, ranks 50th among 135 countries for which the index has been calculated, with the lowest percentage being 1.5 and the highest being 59.8.

⁷ Multidimensional poverty index was introduced in the Human Development Report 2010. It is a composite measure of the percentage of deprivations that the average person would experience if the deprivations of poor households were shared equally across the population. Calculation is based on data (year of data 2008) on households deprivations in education, health and living standards.

Selected indicators related to the MDGs' achievement	
Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger⁸	
Population living below the national poverty line, 2005	49.6%
Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education⁹	
Net enrolment ratio in primary education, 2007	95%
Adult (15+) literacy rate, 2007	99.5%
Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women¹⁰	
Women to men parity index, as ratio of literacy rates, 15–24 years old, 2009	100
Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector, 2009	43.2%
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament	2002: 10.7% 2008: 11.2%
Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability	
Protected area to total surface area, 2008 ¹¹	8.9%
Proportion of rural population using an improved drinking water source, 2006 ¹²	19%

⁸ Human Development Report Azerbaijan.

⁹ UIS Statistics in brief: Education in Azerbaijan 2007.

¹⁰ State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan: <http://www.azstat.org>.

¹¹ <http://www.eco.gov.az/>.

¹² WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation Coverage Estimates Improved Drinking Water Updated in July 2008.

SITUATION ANALYSIS

The Republic of Azerbaijan is located in the South-Western part of the Caucasus. It borders on Iran and Turkey in the South, the Russian Federation in the North, Georgia in the North-West and Armenia in the West.

According to the State Statistical Committee, in 2008 the population of the Republic of Azerbaijan was 8, 779.8 thousand, of which 46.1% were living in rural areas. There were over one million refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the country.

The capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Baku, is situated on the shore of the Caspian Sea in the South of the Absheron Peninsula. It covers an area of 2,200 square km and has a population of 2.0 million.

On 2 March 1992, the Republic of Azerbaijan became a member of the United Nations and joined UNESCO three months later. On 21 February 1994, the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO was established.

Since 1996 Azerbaijan has entered a period of macroeconomic stability and dynamic economic development. A number of large-scale policy documents (strategies and programmes) were adopted and constituted a legal base for economic development («Programme on State Assistance to Small and Middle Entrepreneurship in Azerbaijan (1997-2000)», «State Programme of Development of Small and Middle Entrepreneurship in Azerbaijan (2002-2005)», «State Programme of Development of Agrarian Sector in Azerbaijan (2002-2006)», «Demographic Development Concept of Azerbaijan Republic», «State Programme on Development of Tourism in Azerbaijan Republic in 2002–2005», «State Programme on Poverty Reduction and Economic Development in Azerbaijan Republic (2003-2005)», «State Programme on Social-Economic Development of Regions of Azerbaijan Republic (2004-2008)», etc.) and a number of documents are being developed («Employment Strategy of Azerbaijan Republic», «Integrated Strategy of Trade and Investment on Non-Oil Sector», etc.).

In 2008, the following key social policy frameworks were adopted:

- The State Programme for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development (SPPRSD);
- The State Programme on Reliable Food Supply for the Population (SPRFSP);
- The National Reproductive Health Strategy (NRHS) (2008-2015) and the first national action plan for its implementation (2008-2010);
- The State Programme on the Improvement of Living Conditions and Employment of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (SPILCERIDP);
- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PWD).

The location of Azerbaijan at the crossroads of East-West and North-South Transport Corridors and the fast developing transport infrastructure contribute to the strategic importance of the country. Successful realization of several projects such as Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan, Baku-Supsa, Baku-Novorossiysk oil pipelines and Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline assured the delivery of oil and gas resources of Azerbaijan to the world markets.

The construction of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway and a new international seaport in the part of the Caspian Sea belonging to Azerbaijan will increase the role of the country as a communication centre between Asia and Europe and create favourable conditions for development of the economy of Azerbaijan and neighbouring countries, accelerating the development of the South Caucasus in general.

Furthermore, the presence of a modern energy infrastructure and rich energy resources makes Azerbaijan an important energy centre.

Azerbaijan enjoyed one of the highest economic growth rates in the world in recent years, with an average annual GDP growth of 21.1% from 2003 to 2007, mainly generated by the oil sector. According to the World Bank analysis, Azerbaijan's economy sustained a strong growth in 2008: overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 10.8% (oil GDP by 7% and non-oil GDP by 16.2%). In 2007, the value of GDP per capita was 7,851 US dollars. According to the official statistics, poverty rate is estimated to be below 20%. Nevertheless, IDPs, refugees and households with many children are among those with the highest poverty risk.

Total foreign debt is less than 20% of GDP, of which short- and medium-term public external debt is about US\$ 3 billion. Azerbaijan's foreign reserves count US\$ 18 billion, including US\$ 11.6 billion of State Oil Fund assets (end 2008), which helped to shield Azerbaijan from the early impact of the global financial crisis.

In 2009, the Human Poverty Index (HPI) value of 10.7% for Azerbaijan ranks the country 50th among 135 countries.

The Republic of Azerbaijan is committed to international norms on gender equality and on girls and women's rights. Azerbaijan has significantly progressed towards forming a legislative framework on gender equality. However, gender disparities remain widespread in the country¹³. Women, in particular among the IDPs, constitute one of the most vulnerable groups due to higher unemployment and greater marginalization in economic activities as well as low participation in decision-making processes.

Education: The Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan guarantees the right to free compulsory primary and secondary education for all citizens. Azerbaijan has nearly achieved universal primary education, with gender equity in enrolment rates, thus ensuring the right to education for girls and women.

The rapid development of economy has created favourable conditions for reinforcement of the education sector. The State budget's allocation to education was increased by 21%.

The Government pays special attention to increased use of ICT in education, especially in secondary and higher education. While five years ago there was one computer per 1000 pupils, now there is one computer per 21 pupils; during the same period, the number of schools with access to Internet has increased by 20 times. In recent years efforts have been made to advance early childhood education and care through the creation of child-centred learning environments and the application of modern training technologies.

Furthermore, curriculum reforms were undertaken at secondary schools aimed at facilitating the development of creative potential of children and youth. Other

Adult literacy rate ¹⁴ (% aged 15 and above), 2007	99.5	
Male adult literacy rate (% aged 15 and above), 1997–2007	99.8	
Female adult literacy rate (% aged 15 and above), 1997–2007	99.2	
Youth literacy rate (% aged 15–24 years old), 2007	100	
Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education:¹⁵		
	2008	2009
Gender Parity Index in primary level enrolment	86.9	86.7
Gender Parity Index in secondary level enrolment	97.7	96.7
Gender Parity Index in tertiary level enrolment	97.0	97.6

¹³ Azerbaijan Human Development Report 2007, Gender Attitudes in Azerbaijan: Trends and Challenges.

¹⁴ Human Development Report 2009.

¹⁵ State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan: <http://www.azstat.org>.

governmental programmes were realised, especially those addressing the issue of learning assessment and centralized examinations systems.

Measures have been taken to revitalize technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in the country. Policy changes have focused on building bridges between the education system and needs of the labour market.

According to the «National Employment Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2006-2015)», the elaboration of mechanisms for adaptation of the labour market to the socio-economic growth pace and for a more effective use of country's labour potential is among the priorities of the State.

The «State Program for the Development of Vocational Education in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2007–2012» aims at forming cooperation between vocational Institutions and employers, enhancing the public status of TVET, strengthening the material and technical basis, creating national professional curriculum, working-out National Qualification Framework, developing the informal vocational education system for adults, and establishing private vocational education chain.

On 30 November 2004, Azerbaijan joined the «Bologna process», thus outlining the future reforms in higher education. Higher education institutions were given autonomy and started establishing their internal structure and scientific councils, developing educational plans in line with the state educational standards.

HIV and AIDS: According to the Country Progress Report on Implementation of the UNGASS Declaration of Commitment on HIV and AIDS (2010)¹⁶, the total number of HIV infections in Azerbaijan reached 2,264 at the beginning of 2010. However, UNAIDS estimates place the actual number of cases at 7,800 and the adult prevalence rate at 0.2%. Men account for over 80% of all the cases.

Supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFTAM), UN agencies, Open Society Institute, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and in collaboration with civil society organizations, the Government of Azerbaijan is promoting a comprehensive response to the epidemic in line with the universal principles of access to prevention, treatment, care and support.

According to the Country Progress Report, all schools in Azerbaijan are delivering life skills-based education. However, the level of awareness on HIV among young people (15–24 years old) remains low: in 2006, only 5.3% of surveyed young men and 4.8% of young women could correctly identify the ways of HIV prevention and reject misconceptions about its transmission modes.

The recent changes in the national AIDS Law provide an opportunity to improve the quality of HIV prevention education through integration of relevant topics into Life Skills curricula and engage media into behaviour change communication to raise public awareness about HIV prevention.

Natural Sciences: Rapid economic development has been accompanied by an increasingly negative impact on the environment, including unsustainable use of natural resources. Azerbaijan faces the following major ecological problems:

- Pollution of water resources through discharges of contaminated water, including transboundary pollution;
- Supply of low-quality water to inhabited regions, the loss of fresh water prior to its delivery to the end consumers, insufficient development of sewage systems;
- Air pollution from industrial plants and transport vehicles;

¹⁶ http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2010/azerbaijan_2010_country_progress_report_ru.pdf.

- Degradation of soil (erosion, desertification, etc.);
- Improper regulation of industry and housing, as well as hazardous solid wastes;
- Biodiversity loss, fish resources degradation;
- Deforestation.

These problems have induced the development of an environmental policy which has three main directions:

- Application of methodologies based on the principles of sustainable development to decrease environmental pollution and regulate environmental protection;
- Rational consumption of natural resources, development of alternative and non-traditional methods, such as renewable energy sources and energy efficiency;
- Environmental needs assessment, strengthening cooperation with international organizations, development of national capacities.

The National Programme on Environmentally Sustainable Social-Economic Development was adopted in 2003.

Nature protected areas of the Republic of Azerbaijan cover 7719.08 sq. km, which is equal to 8.91% of the country's territory. The national system of nature protected areas is composed of 14 nature reserves, 8 national parks and 22 wildlife refuges.

The country does not have any biosphere reserves yet, but the process of establishing one has started and should lead to the designation of the first biosphere reserve on the basis of the Zagatala nature reserve.

Social and Human Sciences: Gender mainstreaming remains one of the country's challenges. Promoting and protecting gender equality is one of the strategic goals of SPPRSD 2008–2015.

The National Committee on Bioethics and Ethics of Technology in Azerbaijan has been operating since 2000, dealing with issues related to the respect of basic human principles, moral and biomedical ethics. The main goals of the National Committee are to carry out studies on bioethics and ethics of science and technology, systematically evaluate professional ethical principles for consistency with human rights norms, assist in formulation and propagation of ethical norms in the medical sphere and in the practice of biological experiments, ensuring their compliance with existing international standards.

Continuous cooperation with the National Committee on Bioethics and Ethics of Technology and other stakeholders, including the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO, provides a good opportunity to integrate Bioethics into the higher education curriculum across different areas of study (Medicine, Philosophy, Journalism, etc.) and to establish an on-going public dialogue on these issues.

Culture: Cultural heritage is very rich across the country thanks to Azerbaijan's centuries-old history.

In 2000, the architectural complex of Baku – Icheri Sheher (Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower) – was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, followed by the Gobustan State Historical-Artistic Reserve in 2007.

Azerbaijan has also a rich intangible cultural heritage. In 2003, Mugham, a traditional musical form with a large degree of improvisation that draws upon popular stories and local melodies, was proclaimed as one of the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity, and a Mugham Center was established in Azerbaijan to preserve and promote this musical art.

Furthermore, Ashug Art and Novruz Holiday were included into the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Rich natural resources and cultural diversity give excellent opportunities for the development of different spheres of tourism, which is an important factor for popularization of culture and traditions.

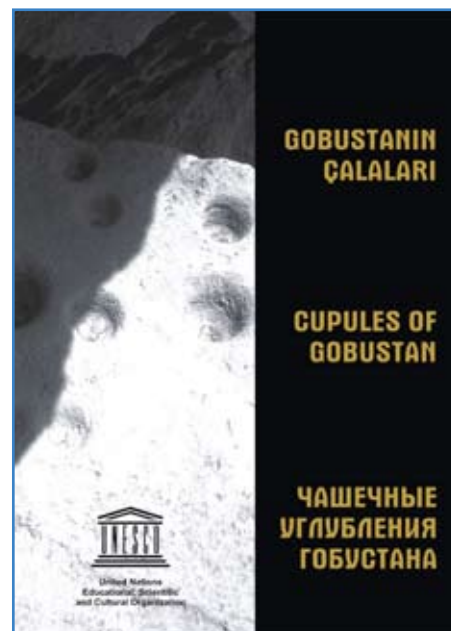
Communication and Information: The main goal of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) Strategy in the Republic of Azerbaijan is to promote democracy and build an information society in the country via wide application of ICTs.

The «State Program for Development of Communication and Information Technologies in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2005–2008 (Electron Azerbaijan) “ has set goals to ensure the development of communication and information systems and technologies in the country. The National Strategy (2003-2012) on ICTs laid the grounds for the development of the ICT sector in the country and expansion and improvement of the quality of telecommunication and information services. The ICT sector demonstrates a stable development in recent years. The number of internet users per 100 inhabitants has grown from 11 in 2007 to 37 in 2008.

SPPRSD 2008–2015 foresees expansion of access to and development of ICT applications in education.

Gender equality being one of the strategic goals of SPPRSD, efforts have been geared towards developing women’s capacities and combating gender-based stereotypes in the media. In July 2009, the first Women Journalists’ Forum was held in Baku to discuss the role of women journalists.

As stated by the President of the Press Council of Azerbaijan, Aflatun Amashov, a 50/50 parity was established in the number of male and female journalists in the country, which marked the country’s political will to achieve gender equality in the media field.



PAST COOPERATION AND LESSONS LEARNT

UNESCO maintains close collaboration with the Republic of Azerbaijan in all Organization's fields of competence. More specifically, the Organization cooperates with the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, headed by its President Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva, a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, and jointly implements a number of projects in education and health care, sports and culture.

Education: At the International Conference «UNESCO-Azerbaijan: Bridge to the Future» (Baku, August 2005) UNESCO and the Republic of Azerbaijan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the field of education.

The MoU provided a new ground for collaboration in the promotion of equal access to quality education, teacher training and curriculum development, application of information and communication technologies in education as well as the establishment of an international co-operation network. Within the framework of the MoU and with UNESCO's financial assistance, in 2006 the Ministry of Education organized an International seminar on the «Development of Professional Education in Azerbaijan» and a national seminar on the «Application of Credit System in Universities of Azerbaijan».

Efforts have been made to improve quality education. An Education Commission established by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2005 was tasked to improve the quality of education at all levels of education and identify strengths and weaknesses of the education system in order to devise possible options for further improvement. A Plan for improvement was elaborated at the Conference on the «Reform of the Education System in Azerbaijan for a Sustainable Future», organized by the Permanent Delegation of Azerbaijan to UNESCO in July 2005.

An international conference on inclusive education was held in Baku in 2006 as a part of the joint Azerbaijan/UNESCO project «Children with Disabilities: Improving Attitudes, Practices and Policies (practical implementation and policy changes and awareness raising to improve the rights of children with disabilities)». The participants discussed the outcomes of the inclusive education project implemented in Azerbaijan as well as key issues of developing an effective and consistent policy in this field.

UNESCO – UNEVOC International Centre in Bonn and the UNESCO Office in Moscow, with assistance from the Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan, organised an induction seminar for UNEVOC Centres in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova and the Caucasus States (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) on 19–20 December 2006 in Baku. The seminar was aimed at reinforcing the development of TVET through an effective UNEVOC Network.

Participants of the meeting explored networking strategies, management, mapping, best practices and innovative experiences. In addition, comprehensive discussions on available assistance opportunities for the UNEVOC Centres and the network as well as on possible joint activities were held.

UNESCO supported the development of Analytical Report on the State of Youth in Azerbaijan in 2007¹⁷.

The International Conference «Addressing Literacy Challenges in Europe with a Sub-Regional Focus: Building Partnerships and Promoting Innovative Approaches», a part of a series of the UNESCO Regional Conferences in Support of Global Literacy, was organized by UNESCO, Heydar Aliyev Foundation and the Ministry of Education on 14–16 May 2008 in Baku. The Conference was held on the initiative of the President of Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO and ISESCO Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva. The Conference was attended by the Director-General of UNESCO Koïchiro Matsuura,

¹⁷ <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001578/157806e.pdf>.

UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors, Ministers of Education of a number of countries and many experts, representatives of Azerbaijan Government and the Ambassadors of Foreign countries to Baku.

«YES Azerbaijan 2008», the 4th global Youth Employment Summit (YES), was organized in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sport, Heydar Aliyev's Foundation and the Youth Employment Systems on 24–27 September 2008 in the Republic of Azerbaijan. It was attended by over 600 delegates from 100 countries.

UNESCO cooperation with Azerbaijan in the area of education is aligned with the state ten-year strategy (2003-2013) to reform secondary compulsory and adapt technical and vocational education and training (TVET) to the needs of fast-evolving market economy.

UNESCO has supported Government policies and measures aimed at improving learning outcomes in the field of science and technology and improving the quality of vocational training so that young men and women could be provided with the required skills to respond to changes in local and international labour markets.

In 2007, UNESCO, the Government of Azerbaijan and the Heydar Aliyev Foundation signed the Plan of Operation of the Project «Revitalizing Vocational Training in Azerbaijan». The Project (2007-2012) aims at training highly qualified professionals and modernizing TVET in order to align it with labour market demands, while ensuring sustainable development.



Seminar for TVET curriculum experts

A significant impact on the development of education in the Republic of Azerbaijan was exerted through UNESCO supported activities aimed at strengthening the institutional capacity in curriculum designing in the sphere of tourism, hospitality and Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Within this project new TVET curriculum and training materials were developed.

The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, UNESCO and Microsoft organized the «Economic Success through Education and Technology» International Education Conference on 22 November 2010 in Baku.

The conference topics covered the following issues:

- National ICT and Education Strategy development;
- One-to-one computing strategies and practice for learners and teachers;
- E-Learning in Higher Education.

The conference was also a regional summit on ICT in Education Strategy for the Newly Independent Countries, highlighting the links between education and national economic strategy.

During 2010–2011 UNESCO assisted Azerbaijan in strengthening education sector managers' and experts' capacities to conduct education policy research and analysis in the areas of teacher development, ICT-enhanced education, TVET and higher education. Close collaboration was maintained to revoke activities of the National UNEVOC Centre.

Furthermore, UNESCO provided policy advice to the Government on how to best use oil revenues to promote employment through education, which resulted in the adoption of the State Programme for Education of Azerbaijani Students Abroad for 2007–2015.¹⁸

Natural Sciences: UNESCO supports the reforms carried out in Azerbaijan in the field of science and technology within the framework of the «National Strategy on Science Development in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2009–2015» and the related State Programme, which has been elaborated with UNESCO's assistance.

The UNESCO Moscow Office works to promote multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary approaches to the sustainable use of natural resources. Throughout its work, the Organization applies a gender equality perspective, and more particularly in the field of natural sciences, through enhancing the involvement of women scientists, researchers and engineers.



© "EcoSphere" Social-Ecological Center, Ecological education is promoted at the Hirkan National Park as a means for environmental protection

One of the successful projects carried out by the UNESCO Moscow Office, within the framework of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, was focused on the improvement of the local school students' knowledge on the Hirkan Forests, which is likely to be included into the UNESCO World Heritage List, and on the familiarization of the local population with the natural, socio-economic and cultural conditions of the area.

Furthermore, as the concept of biosphere reserve (BR) is increasingly becoming a tool used by scientists, planners and policy makers to help link biodiversity conservation with socio-economic development, through the use of knowledge, scientific investigation, and experience sharing, the UNESCO Moscow Office has been carrying out capacity-building activities on BRs for Azerbaijani experts. The latter participated in a regional workshop on BR management in 2009 in Northern Vidzeme BR (Latvia).

Furthermore, participation of Azerbaijani experts in a sub-regional workshop «Developing Biosphere Reserves Network in SEE and the Caucasus Regions» in 2010 resulted in the development of a joint outline targeted at capacity enhancement to establish and manage BRs in the Caucasus region.

The same year a sub-regional forum, organized during the workshop «Biosphere Reserve Concept in the Framework of National Legislations: Challenges, Best Practices and Steps Forward of Cluster Countries of the UNESCO Moscow Office and Neighbouring European states», put forward inter alia an establishment of the first BR in Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan has reported on recently adopted environmental laws and government's endeavours for creation of the first biosphere reserve in Azerbaijan on the basis of the Zagatala nature reserve.

¹⁸ UNDAF 2011–2015, Baku, 2009.



Workshop on enhancement of environmental awareness on freshwater management among youth in Azerbaijan, 2006

UNESCO has also provided assistance to the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences for the establishment of a technological park.

International Geosciences Programme (IGCP) National Committee actively facilitates the linkages between the scientific community in Azerbaijan and the rest of the world through the IGCP Secretariat, and promotes cooperation in the areas of research and education in geosciences at the national level and worldwide.

Social and Human Sciences: The International Forum on Expanding the Role of Women in Cross-Cultural Dialogue, organized

under the initiative of Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva, President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, and co-sponsored by UNESCO and ISESCO, was held in Baku in June 2008. The Forum participants adopted Baku Declaration, which called on governments and civil society actors to promote gender equality, increase the participation of women in decision-making and to extend research on the role of women in strengthening mutual understanding. It emphasized women's contribution to overcoming stereotypes and underlined the importance of gender equality and elimination of all forms of violence against women as the basis of development.

UNESCO supported research on women's political participation in the Caucasus, including Azerbaijan, which focused on the state of legislation, policies regarding women's political participation and the promotion of human rights, fundamental freedoms and gender equality.

Policy-oriented research activities undertaken by the UNESCO Moscow Office in previous biennia contributed to defining the state obligations as well as problems and obstacles related to the implementation of human rights in the cluster countries.

Additionally, UNESCO cooperates with the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, who became a member of the Sub-Regional Policy-Research Network on the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights in the scope of UNESCO's competence and actively participated as an expert in all events organized by UNESCO in this field.



Elmira Suleymanova, Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan



UNESCO Normative Documents on Bioethics translated into Azerbaijani

The Network aims at improving the interaction of all partners already engaged in cooperation: UNESCO Chairs and their branches, research centres, educational institutions, national human rights institutions, intergovernmental organizations, international and national non-governmental organizations, legislative, executive and judicial bodies, as well as other structures dealing with human rights issues at national and local levels.

The main lesson learnt from promoting gender mainstreaming and human rights based approach in Azerbaijan suggests that advocacy and capacity building on these issues is successful when UNESCO works closely with the key national stakeholders at the highest possible level (e. g. President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, the Commissioner for Human Rights) and extends the body of evidence through research and analysis.

In the field of Social and Human Sciences, another key area for UNESCO is bioethics. The UNESCO Moscow Office has been providing support to the Azerbaijan National Committee on Bioethics, Ethics of Sciences and Technology, which was established in 2000.

It is also worth mentioning that Azerbaijan signed the Anti-Doping Convention on 28 June 2002.

Culture: In the field of culture, particular attention was paid to the support of tangible and intangible cultural heritage and the reinforcement of the role of museums as access points to knowledge on cultural heritage and cultural diversity.

Training activities on museum management based on the UNESCO/ICOM Museum Training Package were carried out to increase the capacity of professionals in museum management and collection conservation as well as to strengthen national capacities for the legal protection of movable cultural property. In parallel, the use of ICT by museums was encouraged inter alia by creating a trilingual website for the Museum Centre of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

The UNESCO Moscow Office launched activities in order to ensure that the intangible cultural heritage is understood, known and appreciated, in particular by young people, through education systems and the new communication media, including the creation of the multilingual website on Traditional Music of Azerbaijan http://atlas.musigi-dunya.az/index_en.html.



Atlas of Traditional Music of Azerbaijan

Comparative studies were conducted and the website «Information Observatory on Cultural Policy: Europe-Caucasus-Asia (ECA)» <http://www.observatory-guam.org/> was created in 2007 in partnership with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan as a contribution to realization of the Action Plan of UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. The project aimed at mainstreaming cultural diversity into cultural policy agendas at national and international levels and reinforcing regional cultural cooperation of GUAM countries in the field of culture and intercultural dialogue.



Traditional carpet weaving education in Azerbaijan

Arts education is recognized to be essential for creativity and development. The Republic of Azerbaijan actively participates in the UNESCO/IFESCCO Pilot Project «Arts Education in CIS countries: Issues and Prospects for Building Creative Capacities for 21st Century».

The national analytical study in the field of arts education has been conducted, focusing on the analysis of existing system of arts education, current programmes and development trends of arts education of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The target beneficiaries of the project – the local communities,

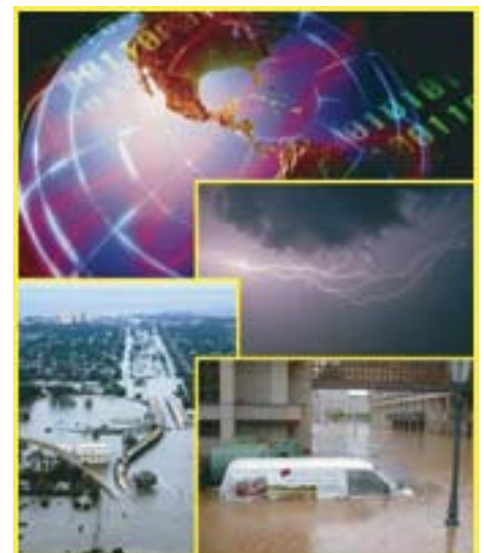
particularly youth and women, – are encouraged to actively participate in the support and development of cultural diversity through arts education. Policy makers and cultural and educational institutions functioning in the field of arts education are the principal audience of the project. Their attention will be drawn to the necessity of the improvement and further development of arts education and cultural policy in this field.

UNESCO applies efforts to preserve the Silk Roads heritage in Azerbaijan within the framework of the Digital Silk Roads initiative, based on advanced image processing technology and cultural heritage exchanges.

The projects implemented in Azerbaijan identified the necessity to mobilize cultural, touristic, scientific and educational resources, as well as information and communication technologies for sustainable development. In 2011, the respective pilot project is to be initiated in the Sheki region of Azerbaijan, aiming at making further impact on other regions.

Communication and Information: The Republic of Azerbaijan and UNESCO have a successful history of cooperation in the field of strengthening capacities of media professionals, both women and men, in order to achieve universal access to information.

An interesting project was implemented in 2007 in cooperation with the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) and the Republic of Korea. It entailed the placement of seven qualified Azerbaijani students in the KAIST for a 4-year study programme in ICT and related areas.



© AzerTAc
Poster of the capacity building seminar for media professionals “Climate change and Azerbaijan”

In 2009, the UNESCO Moscow Office and the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO provided support to the Azerbaijan State Telegraph Agency (AzerTAc) in a pilot project designed to introduce environmental journalists to the most up-to-date information on the implications of climate change, its social and economic aspects, global challenges and its impact on the countries of the region.

The same year a Training of Trainers on Online Educational Content Development was conducted to provide the participants with essential skills to prepare, design, create and deliver on-line educational content.

UNESCO also supported the Baku State University in its efforts to update equipment and ensure quality training for its educational television and radio studio.

UNESCO, UNDP and the Italian donor CYBION co-funded the setting up of a strategic and operational centre in Azerbaijan in the framework of the UNDP Project «Regional E-Government Training and Resource Centre (REGTAC) (2005-2008)». The centre provided training of government officials, experts and specialists in e-government and e-governance and contributed to improving applications of new ICT for e-governance and e-government.

UNESCO has also been working to promote the preservation of documentary heritage. In 2005, «Medieval Manuscripts on Medicine and Pharmacy» kept by the Institute of Manuscripts of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (IMANAS) were included in the UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.

Moreover, together with the Azerbaijan National Committee of ICOM UNESCO produced the CD «Azerbaijan Carpets», containing over 200 photos and descriptions of the tapestry kept in the State Museum of Azerbaijan Carpet and Traditional Arts.



CD "Azerbaijan Carpets"

PROPOSED COOPERATION PROGRAMME FOR 2011–2013

Based on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Azerbaijan (2011-2015) and on the experience UNESCO has gained in the country, the UNESCO Moscow Office will strengthen its support in the following areas:

- develop non-oil based policies in order to achieve a better economic status, decent work opportunities and a healthier environment in all regions and across all social groups;
- enhance social inclusion through the provision of improved and equal access to quality health, education and social protection services for vulnerable groups;
- strengthen the system of governance with the involvement of civil society and in compliance with Azerbaijan's international commitments, particular emphasis being made on vulnerable groups.

To achieve the above-mentioned objectives, UNESCO plans to implement the following activities:

- Support to Alternative Early Childhood Care and Education policy development;
- Development of the national policy and strategy for science, technology and innovation, taking into account a gender equality perspective;
- Development of decent work opportunities, especially for marginalized women, in regions through promotion of cultural tourism;
- Strengthening of national capacities of women and men to enable long-term transition towards Green Economy, sustainable production, consumption and resource management;
- Strengthening of the role of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- Achievement of progress towards a knowledge society through increased use of ICT in education, with a particular focus on girls, especially in secondary and higher education;
- Capacity development of the national media to report on regional disparities and issues of particular concern to women, youth and vulnerable groups.

Education: Based on the national priorities and goals as referred to in the State Programme on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development aligned with the MDGs (2008-2015) and building on past cooperation, UNESCO will provide assistance in the following key areas:

- *Quality Education for All.* Tackling all levels of education (from early childhood to higher education) and lifelong learning through formal and non-formal approaches and drawing on innovative ICT-based approaches for girls and boys alike;
- *Right to education.* Developing, disseminating and monitoring at country level the educational norms and standards, and empowering vulnerable and disadvantaged groups to participate in development processes throughout life, especially young girls;
- *Sector-wide policy and planning.* Including integration of the principles, values and practices of sustainable development into education sector within the framework of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014);
- *Upstream policy advice and capacity development.* Assisting in the vision formation and development of the education policy in the following areas: early childhood, technical and vocational education and training, teacher development policies and programmes, taking into account a gender equality perspective.

- *Mechanisms of cooperation* such as ASPnet, UNESCO Chairs and Clubs, National Commissions. Strengthening the existing assistance and fostering the use of the broad-based multidisciplinary expertise and potential of UNESCO institutes and centres to develop new strategic partnerships and to contribute to joint United Nations country level efforts.

UNESCO will work to provide quality and equitable education, including preschool education for 3–6 year old girls and boys. Assistance will be provided to the MoE in Early Childhood Care and Education policy development.

In addition, UNESCO will foster interventions aimed at improving the use of ICT in schools, with particular emphasis on secondary and higher education and on girls' involvement.

UNESCO will provide technical assistance to the MoE to reinforce national capacities in delivery of quality HIV prevention education.

Natural Sciences: National priorities of Azerbaijan in science are defined in line with the «National Strategy on Science Development in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2009–2015» and the relevant State Programme, which aims at developing a national strategy and related policies for science, technology and innovation. Within this framework, UNESCO will assist the Republic of Azerbaijan in strengthening institutional mechanisms and formulating quality and evidence-based policies, which will take into account the gender equality perspectives.

UNESCO will assist in the development of a regulatory framework for elaboration of science policies able to promote economic growth, decent work opportunities and a healthier environment in all regions and across all social groups.

Support will also be provided to capacity building in the protection and sustainable use of natural resources and to the development of mechanisms to integrate environmental concerns, in particular climate change, taking into account its gender specific dimension.

UNESCO will act as a catalyst in the establishment and management of the first biosphere reserve in Azerbaijan. Efforts will be made to ensure that in the area concerned a sustainable balance between conservation of biological diversity, promotion of economic development and maintenance of cultural values is reached.

Social and Human Sciences: In Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO will provide assistance in policy research on human rights, including women's rights, and their linkages within UNESCO's fields of competence. This support is expected to be beneficial to the elaboration of policy recommendations aimed at improving the implementation of human rights.

A pilot research study will be conducted on the state of implementation of the right to take part in cultural life. The study will identify the remaining obstacles to the full enjoyment of this right. Particular attention will be given to the principles of universality and interrelatedness of all human rights and their equal importance, as well as to the impact of the economic and financial crises on their implementation. In addition, a policy brief with the proposals on how to improve the implementation of the right to take part in cultural life will be prepared, and research-policy recommendations will be developed.



A study on Youth Civic Engagement in Azerbaijan will be conducted. The Study will focus on national and international mechanisms of cooperation between the State institutions and social organizations in promoting active youth participation in social transformations and intercultural dialogue, with emphasis on young women's issues. Based on the results of the analysis, a set of recommendations and policy briefs are to be developed. The recommendations and policy briefs will be presented at the regional conference «Youth and Social Transformations: Involvements and Initiatives» to be organized in 2011 within the framework of the «UN International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding». The event shall become a platform for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on youth issues in the region and for catalyzing international cooperation in this field.

Culture: The main areas of focus for UNESCO in Azerbaijan are safeguarding of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue for peace and development, with women's active role and participation in peace-building processes, and support of cultural policy and cultural tourism development, taking into account the gender equality perspective.

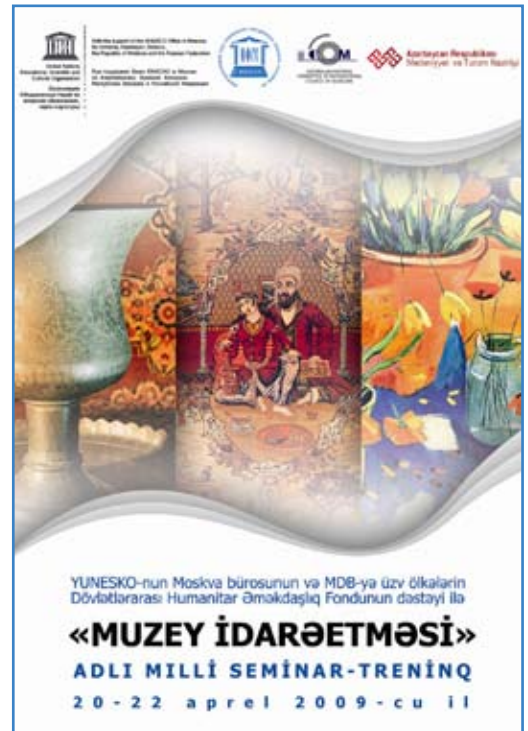
To improve the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, special attention will be given to strengthen capacities for protection of cultural heritage, in particular through the training of national experts on conservation and management of heritage properties. A number of activities will be initiated to develop World Heritage information, education and knowledge management tools, as well as to enhance synergy of the 1972, 2003 and 2005 Conventions implementation.

In order to strengthen the implementation of the 2003 Convention, capacity building activities, focusing specifically on women, will be carried out to support the intergenerational transmission of intangible cultural heritage. Activities to identify and promote intangible heritage by means of education, research and community involvement (including practitioners of intangible heritage) will be initiated.

The role of museums as access points to knowledge on cultural heritage and cultural diversity will be reinforced through activities aimed at improving the educational content of museums and at widening ICT based access to collections. To strengthen the capacity of national experts to conserve and manage heritage properties, capacity-building training on museum management will be provided to specialists and the network of museum partnerships will be reinforced.

To promote the mobilization of cultural resources for sustainable development, a long-term intersectoral pilot project aimed at encouraging the formulation of policies promoting cultural industries and cultural and ecological tourism will be developed. The project will be implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO and will focus on capacity building of women and men for the development of cultural and tourism industries of the Sheki region of Azerbaijan.

Communication and Information: In line with the UNESCO priorities to ensure universal access to information and reduce digital inequality, including the gender divide, the UNESCO Moscow Office will work on capacity building of women and men with special needs and vulnerable groups in the sphere of communication and information.



The use of ICTs in education, environment protection and culture will be facilitated through mobilization of intersectorial and inter-agency cooperation.

UNESCO will foster interventions aimed at strengthening media capacity of women and men based on IPDC media development indicators.

UNESCO will work to strengthen the capacity of media professionals, both female and male, to report on climate change, including the gender specific dimensions of climate change, and on the advantages of green economy. Specific issues will include gender division of labour, participation in decision and policy-making, exposure of women and men to different risks and opportunities.

Efforts will be geared towards the enhancement of the regional media capacity to report on the regional disparities and issues of particular concern to women, young boys and girls, and vulnerable and marginalized groups.



PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY

Activities and projects will be implemented through partnerships involving the Government, UN Agencies, civil society and, where appropriate, private sector. The partnership with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and other UN agencies working within the country will ensure the effective achievement of the UNDAF outcomes and prepare the ground to ensure sustainability of the outcomes achieved.

The UNESCO Moscow Office will work in close collaboration with the Government (National Commission and relevant Ministries, including the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan) and the Office of the Ombudsman, and will implement projects in cooperation with relevant groups, including community councils, local NGOs, scientific and academic institutions and specialized associations. For example, regional partners include the Sheki Municipal Authority, working in close collaboration with the UNDP and the World Bank for the implementation of the Sheki pilot project «Mobilizing Cultural, Touristic and Educational Resources of the Sheki Region of the Republic of Azerbaijan for Sustainable Development».

Partnering with international organizations and NGOs is important for UNESCO to leverage the expertise and capacities of national and international stakeholders and maximize the overall impact of UNESCO's activities. UNESCO will also seek the collaboration with bilateral and multilateral donors to attract additional resources necessary for the attainment of UNDAF results and for ensuring their sustainability.

UNESCO will continue to provide support to the Republic of Azerbaijan in establishing cooperation with international partners and donors as it was the case at the UNESCO Roundtable on Fostering Dialogue among SMEs for Cooperation in the Use of Advanced ICT (Baku, 2009).

In particular, during the roundtable Azerbaijan signed a number of cooperation agreements with Korea Polytechnic University (KPU): the MoU on Promoting Collaboration in ICT for Education signed by Azerbaijan Technical University, the MoU on Strengthening Partnership in ICT Training and Entrepreneurship approved by Baku Business Training Centre; a Letter of Agreement on Cooperation in Geographic Information System ratified by the Azerbaijan Geographic Research Committee under the Azerbaijan Ministry of Defence.

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Country Programme Management. The UNESCO Cluster Office in Moscow in cooperation with the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO will be responsible for the overall programme implementation, including project identification, formulation, execution, and monitoring. Close consultations with relevant sectors will be held on a regular basis.

Resource Mobilization. To complement its regular programme funds, UNESCO will deploy efforts to mobilize extra budgetary resources and tap on various sources of funding such as:

- Mutual cooperation and joint fund mobilization strategies with the UNCT working in the Republic of Azerbaijan and involved in the UNDAF implementation process;
- Mutual cooperation with the line Ministries of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- Strengthened collaboration agreements with donors.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring, reporting and evaluation will include a series of linked activities, including UNESCO monitoring & evaluation tools/RBM, reporting and evaluation according to UCPD Guidelines, and general monitoring of the progress in executing activities.

The amount of regular budget resources, as specified in Annex 1, shall be committed for 2011 according to the current Work plan. The commitment of a specified amount of regular budget for 2012–2013 will be subject to the availability of funds as in the next UNESCO's Programme and Budget, 36 C/5.

ANNEX I: UCPD RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK*

UNDAF outcome 1: Economic Development

By 2015, non-oil development policies result in better economic status, decent work opportunities and a healthier environment in all regions and across all social groups

Agency Outcomes	UNESCO Expected Results	Interventions	Indicators and Benchmarks	Indicative Resources by programme component (per year, US\$)			
				2011	2012	2013	TOTAL
<p>1.1. National policies and institutions are strengthened to increase private sector competitiveness, remove trade barriers, especially for exports, while reducing the vulnerability of the economy and population to external shocks.</p> <p>CEB Inter-Agency Cluster: (ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNIDO, UNESCAP, WTO) ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WFP, IFAD</p>	<p>– National policy and strategy for science, technology and innovation (STI) developed;</p>	<p>UNESCO and Japanese Funds-in-Trust will implement the project: Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy and Policy (US\$ 100,000).</p>	<p>– Number of institutions and sectors participated in the process;</p> <p>– STI Institutional Capacity Building developed;</p> <p>– By 2011 outlines for strategy elaborated and agreed, key components identified;</p> <p>– By 2012 policy and strategy formulated, discussed by sectors concerned and adopted, and key components drafted for discussion and adoption;</p> <p>– By 2013 key components formulated, adopted; and plan of further actions agreed.</p>	20,000 (incl. HQ)	20,000 (incl. HQ)	20,000 (incl. HQ)	Regular Budget: 60,000 Co-financing/resource mobilization: 350,000
<p>1.2. National strategies, policies, and capacity to address regional and gender disparities in decent work opportunities are strengthened, with a focus on increasing the ability of vulnerable groups to manage and mitigate risks.</p> <p>(UNDP, ILO, IOM, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNESCO)</p>	<p>– Decent work opportunities in regions are increased through measures to mobilize cultural resources for sustainable development, including heritage and cultural tourism.</p>	<p>– Feasibility study, monitoring and mapping of the cultural (tangible and intangible) heritage of Azerbaijan as a basis for cultural tourism and sustainable development conducted;</p> <p>– Expert meetings, conferences and trainings for specialists from cultural institutions to advocate culture as a resource for sustainable development organized and conducted;</p> <p>– The pilot project on capacity building for development of cultural and tourism industries of the Sheki region of Azerbaijan developed.</p>	<p>– Tourist infrastructure in the field of cultural and ecological tourism developed;</p> <p>– Awareness of local communities about the cultural and natural heritage raised;</p> <p>– Number of trainings conducted, number of decision makers and community representatives trained (at least 60% women), number of publications issued.</p>	20,000	15,000	15,000	Regular Budget: 50,000 Extra budgetary: 800,000

<p>1.3. Relevant national strategies, policies, and capacities strengthened to address environmental degradation, promote the green economy, and reduce vulnerability to climate change. (UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, IOM, UNECE, IAEA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – National capacity strengthened to enable long-term transition towards Green Economy, sustainable production, consumption and resource management. – Biosphere reserves established to address current emerging challenges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Interventions to build national capacity of women and men to establish and manage demonstration sites for sustainable development (biosphere reserves) according to innovative approaches to conservation and sustainable development conducted; – Establishment and strengthening of management of UNESCO model sites for sustainable development to address current emerging challenges (e.g. accelerated climate change with consequences for societies and ecosystems; accelerated loss of biological and cultural diversity with unexpected consequences that impact the ability of ecosystems to continue to provide services critical for human wellbeing; and rapid urbanization as a driver of environmental change) catalyzed; – Relevant legal and regulatory framework(s) developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – By 2011 training needs analyzed, outlines of training modules and programmes developed, innovative approaches identified; – by 2012 number of seminars and training workshops implemented; – number of participants trained (at least 45% women), number of sectors, institutions involved; – by 2013 number of lessons learnt and best practices shared; – Number of institutions and sectors participated in the preparation and development of legal and regulatory frameworks; – by 2011 outlines for framework elaborated and agreed; – by 2012 draft of framework developed and discussed by sectors concerned; – by 2013 legal and regulatory framework adopted; – by 2011 an area of BR agreed, and a plan of actions to develop nomination dossier adopted; – by 2012 nomination dossier finalized and submitted; interventions proposed and actions to address emerging challenges agreed; – by 2013 numbers of sectors and relevant decision makers involved in process, number of consultative and participatory meetings done; number of proposals to cope with challenges developed and resources mobilized. 	<p>15,000 (incl. HQ)</p> <p>Co-financing/ resource mobiliz.: 25,000</p>	<p>15,000 (incl. HQ)</p> <p>Co-financing /resource mobiliz.: 75,000</p>	<p>20,000 (incl. HQ)</p> <p>Co-financ./ resource mobiliz.: 150,000</p>	<p>Regular budget: 50,000 (incl. HQ)</p> <p>Co-financing/ resource mobilization: 250,000</p>
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UNDAF outcome 2: Social Development

By 2015, vulnerable groups enjoy increased social inclusion, improved and equal access to quality health, education and social protection services.

Agency Outcomes	UNESCO Expected Results	Interventions	Indicators and Benchmarks	Indicative Resources by programme component (per year, US\$)			
				2011	2012	2013	TOTAL
2.1. The National Health System ensures improved, equitable and quality services, in particular for vulnerable groups, in line with international standards (UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF, UNODC, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNAIDS, IAEA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive life skills based HIV education is included into school curriculum and extra-curricular activities and delivered in all schools in order to improve young people's awareness on HIV and reduce HIV incidence among them, with a special focus on vulnerable groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing curricula are revised and updated in line with internationally recommended, culturally appropriate and nationally proven approaches; Educators' capacity to deliver comprehensive HIV prevention education is improved through expanded access to relevant information, education and communication materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Situation with prevention education in the country assessed; National education policy makers and curriculum developers, civil society organizations involved in HIV prevention including peer educators are exposed to best practices and benefit from cross-fertilization through participation in Preventive Education Conference organized by UNESCO jointly with other UN agencies for EE & CA countries; Plans to revise/update preventive education curriculum and approaches established and revision commissioned. Relevant international and national information, education and communication materials including the ones on HIV stigma and discrimination prevention are made available to educators responsible for HIV preventive education. 	10,000	10,000	10,000	Extra budgetary (UBW) 30,000
2.2. State provides quality and equitable education. (UNESCO, UNICEF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative Early Childhood Care and Education Models are introduced and Early Development Standards are practiced country-wide by MoE. Progress towards a knowledge society achieved through increased use of ICT in education, particularly for girls, especially in secondary and higher education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trainings for teacher training institutions and policy makers on ECCE policy. Introduction of new curricula, innovative teaching and learning approaches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of teachers and policy makers trained on the ECCE policy. 	10,000	20,000	10,000	Regular Budget: 100,000 Extra budgetary: 890,000
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of girls who use ICTs in education; Access to ICT in education for males and females measured to become part of the education statistics. 	20,000	20,000	20,000	

UNDAF outcome 3: Governance							
By 2015, the State strengthens the system of governance with the involvement of Civil Society and in compliance with its international commitments, with particular emphasis on vulnerable groups.							
Agency Outcomes	UNESCO Expected Results	Interventions	Indicators and Benchmarks	Indicative Resources by programme component (per year, US\$)			
				2011	2012	2013	TOTAL
3.1. By 2015 civil society, media and vulnerable groups enjoy an increased role in policy formulation and implementation processes. (UNDP, UNICEF, OHCHR, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNAIDS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – National media produce reports that look at regional disparities and issues of particular concern to women, youth and vulnerable groups, especially at the sub-national level, with particular focus on the impact of climate change on sustainable development in the regions; – Media capacity of women and men based on IPDC media development indicators strengthened. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Capacity building activities; – Production of publications; – Policy advice provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Capacity building of at least 100 journalists strengthened (at least 50% women); – Number of publications produced; – Policy makers' capacities strengthened. 	20,000	20,000	20,000	Regular Budget: 60,000 Extra budgetary 90,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Role of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the sub-regional Policy-Research Network on Human Rights strengthened to develop studies on human rights within UNESCO's area of competence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pilot research study on the state of the implementation of the right to take part in cultural life, development of research-policy dialogue and policy brief publication; – Research study on Youth Civic Engagement in Azerbaijan and policy brief publication; – International Ombudsmen Conference «Human Rights and Environment: Legal and Ethical Aspects of Climate Change»; – International Ombudsman Conference on human rights of migrants and national minorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Dialogue with researchers and decision-makers developed to convey research findings and to assist in the development of evidence-based policies (at least 50% women among participants); – Public awareness on climate change raised; – Number of government institutions, NGOs and civil societies sensitized. 	15,000	10,000	15,000	Regular Budget: 40 000

* A specified amount of extra-budgetary resources is subject to the availability of funds.

ANNEX II

International commitments of the Republic of Azerbaijan

- Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1993), Protocol (1993) and the Second Protocol (1994) thereto;
- Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1993);
- Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees concerning Higher Education in the States belonging to the Europe Region (1994);
- Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific (1995);
- Universal Copyright Convention (1997);
- Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (1998);
- Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1997);
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (2001);
- Convention for the Protection of Producers of Phonograms against Unauthorized Duplication of their Phonograms (2001);
- International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (2003);
- Convention for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2006);
- International Convention against Doping in Sport (2007).

ANNEX III

National Commission for UNESCO, UNESCO Chairs at Azerbaijan Universities and Sectoral National Committees

- 1992, 3 June – Azerbaijan joined UNESCO;
- 1994, 21 February – the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO was established;
- Chair of Translation, Linguistics and Terminology at Azerbaijan University of Languages;
- Chair on Human Rights, Democracy and Peace at the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- International Council of Museums (ICOM);
- Management of Social Transformations (MOST);
- International Hydrological Programme (IHP);
- Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB);
- International Bioethics Committee (IBC);
- International Music Council;
- International Theatre Institute.