



THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS

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633 Third Avenue, Suite 3210, New York, N.Y. 10017,  
Tel.: (212) 371-2559 Fax: (212) 371-2784

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50<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development  
General discussion on item 3  
Statement by the Delegation of Azerbaijan  
05 April 2017

Madam Chairperson,

The Delegation of Azerbaijan congratulates you and other members of the Bureau on your election and thanks the Secretary-General for his reports submitted under this item.

We renew our commitment to implement the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), consistent with national laws and development priorities and recognize the critical role that this Commission, together with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) played in advancing the population agenda worldwide.

Madam Chairperson, the Secretary-General's report on "Changing population age structures and sustainable development" highlights that a large majority of the world's countries are experiencing significant shifts in the distribution of their populations by age, moving from the youthful populations towards the older populations.

Azerbaijan currently has one of the youngest age distribution among the Eastern European countries. The young people aged 15 to 24 years represent 27 % of our total population. We consider youth as a great asset and are constantly placing a special emphasis to the full realization of their potential in terms of getting quality education and decent job opportunities.

At the same time, estimates show that Azerbaijan will experience population ageing in the next decades as well. The share of older persons aged 65 years or over that currently stands at 6 % in Azerbaijan is projected to constitute 22 % by 2050.

Recently, an amendment was introduced to the Law on the Labor Pension to raise statutory retirement age to 65 in connection with increasing life expectancy. This step is very much in line with the recommendation offered in para 56 of the Secretary-General's above-mentioned report, that "Governments should anticipate demographic trends and their likely impacts on social security and consider possible increases in the statutory age of retirement in response to increasing longevity and other reforms to ensure the economic security of future generations of older persons".

Madam Chairperson, a State Programme on Population and Demographic Development covering period 2017-2030 is currently under elaboration in Azerbaijan. The Programme is based on international conventions ratified by Azerbaijan, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), the Programme of Action on ICPD and strategic roadmaps on national economy adopted by the Presidential decrees. The document, once adopted, will be implemented in close conjunction with other state programmes related to education, health and employment, etc. The main priority areas are as follows:

- promoting family values and strengthening family institution;
- strengthening the socio-economic support to the families, especially young families;
- strengthening reproductive health of population, protecting mothers and children;
- reducing death and disease rates.

The State Programme will also develop a timely and accurate data to effectively respond to the current and emerging trends and shifts. This is indeed important part of the efforts of all Governments as the Executive Director of the UNFPA said this Monday in his statement that "meeting our commitment to leave no one behind depends on population data".

In conclusion, Madam Chairperson, let me reiterate my government's strong commitment to implement SDGs and the Programme of Action on ICPD.

I thank you.