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**Statement by Mrs. Rana Abdullayeva, Deputy Head of Division
of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of
Azerbaijan at the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development
7 April 2025, Conference room 4, UN Headquarters**

Dear madam Chair,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, let me express my gratitude to the organizers of the Session for opportunity to discuss the prospects for implementing the Program of Action adopted in 1994.

Today's discussion provides new perspectives for political solutions to the acceleration of the [human capital development not only in global context, but also in the regional and national level.

The goals proclaimed at the Cairo Conference are reflected in national strategies and programmes that ensure the improvement of the lives Azerbaijani people.

This approach underpins primary labour, employment and social protection legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Despite adverse effects of complex political and economic processes at the regional and global levels, enhancing the social welfare of Azerbaijani population is the cornerstone of a robust social state concept that is being implemented by the government.

Since 2018, four social reform packages have been implemented in Azerbaijan, covering 4 million citizens, with annual additional financial resources of more than 4 billion US Dollars. The next social reform package for 2025 will cover a total of 3 million people, with increases in salaries, pensions and allowances.

One of the key objectives of the state's socio-economic policy is to protect workers' rights and ensure decent work. The "Employment Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2019-2030" and other relevant legislation acts outlines the implementation of employment-oriented economic development policies.

DOST Agency under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population established to provide whole-scale social services on a single window basis, in a transparent and operative manner, have become the new brand of our country. Since May 2019, 7 DOST centers have been

opened to public service. Over 3.2 million citizens have been served at the centers, where 160 services are provided, and the level of user satisfaction with those services is 98.4 percent.

There has been significant progress in recent years towards the extensive implementation of e-technologies in the domain of public social services. More than 140 out of 160 services provided by the Ministry have already been digitalized, 56 of them are proactive. Currently, the level of digitalization in the Ministry is higher than 90 percent.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

2024 was proclaimed the "Year of Solidarity for the Green World" in our country and we successfully hosted COP29 in November last year.

In our recently liberated territories in Karabagh, the Great Return Program is being carried out along with extensive construction and restoration projects. In Azerbaijan, especially in our recently liberated territories which were under occupation almost 30 years, new cities and villages are being constructed from the scratch, together with new social and economic infrastructure, contemporary "green" urban planning technologies, and concepts of "smart city" and "smart village".

We are confident that future directions for development of human capital at national and regional levels will be made possible by topics to be covered and the experiences to be exchanged during this Conference.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the organizers for this event and wish participants productive work.

Thank you for your attention!