



**Permanent Mission  
of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
to the UN Office and other  
International Organizations  
GENEVA**

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the Latter's request dated 25 March 2019, has the honour to transmit the information by the competent authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan concerning the implementation of the Programme of Activities for the International Decade for People of African Descent.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosure: 2 pages



Geneva, 25 April 2019

Office of the United Nations  
High Commissioner for Human Rights  
GENEVA

**Information for Questionnaire prepared by OHCHR on the implementation of the  
Programme of Activities for  
the International Decade for People of African Descent**

Determined to participate in the development of Africa, the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan has sponsored a number of health and education projects in the following African States: **Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Liberia, Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Benin, Guinea, Cameroon, Niger, Mali, Libya, Ivory Coast, and Mozambique**. The projects started in 2012 and engaged multiple stakeholders. These projects bear equivalent significance both for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 of the African Union. More specifically, recipients and focus areas are aligned with the following SDGs and ASDGs:

- GSDG 3 "Good Health and Well-Being", ASDG 3 "Healthy and well-nourished citizens";
- GSDG 4 "Quality Education", ASDG 2 "Well educated citizens and skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation";
- GSDG 5 "Gender Equality", ASDG 17 "Full gender equality in all spheres of life";
- GSDG 17 "Partnerships for the Goals", ASDG 19 "Africa as a major partner in global affairs and peaceful co-existence".

**Four projects** have been carried out under the Framework Agreement signed between UNESCO and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Those projects were tailored for the particular needs and circumstances of the low-income and poor communities with alarming indicators in female education and labor force. The goal of these projects was to identify and tackle areas with apparent necessity and potential for improvement, introduce new initiatives, and connect existing government and community-based equitable development programs.

- In **Uganda**, promoting gender equity and equality in education through gender-sensitive primary teacher education and training;
- in **Kenya** health literacy and behavior change practices among adolescent girls in Kibera informal settlements in Nairobi;
- in **Tanzania** empowering girls from pastoralist communities in Ngorongo, especially enhancing the skills of the Massai community women in the production of cultural goods and crafts
- in **Liberia**, capacity development for Education for All: support to Technical and Vocational Education and Training

All these projects have fascinating results for the communities and people involved as well as for countries as whole. Because of the successful achievements we have keen interest to continue funding and implementing similar projects in these and other countries of Africa.

As health and education remain important elements in fostering low-income families' integration into economic activities and promoting development of small and medium enterprises in the African continent, financing educational and medical projects in Africa represent a high priority for the Republic of Azerbaijan.

For instance, since 2012 the Azerbaijan International Development Agency (AIDA) in partnership with the Islamic Development Bank have been funding "**Campaign to Fight Avoidable Blindness**" which benefited such African countries as **Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Benin, Guinea, Cameroon, Niger, Mali, Libya, Ivory Coast and Mozambique**. A number of humanitarian actions have taken place several times in these countries which helped over 300,000 people receive eye examinations free of charge and 56,000 patients who had partially or fully lost their sight- recover vision.

When epidemics of Ebola broke out in 2014 causing many human losses and damages of national economies of the countries, the Republic of Azerbaijan has provided 1 million of US dollars via the United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Office for Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs to fight the spread of Ebola in North Africa, namely **Sierra-Leone, Guinea and Liberia**. On a number of cases, Azerbaijan has provided humanitarian aid to some African states, including **Nigeria and South Sudan** through the Nigeria Humanitarian Fund and the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund to fight food crises and prevent human starvation, as well as to **Burundi** refugees through UNHCR.

We share the belief that building and strengthening human capital is an integral part of the comprehensive approach towards ensuring sustainable development that brings both economic progress and political stability for countries. Following two decrees of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, scholarship programs were launched for the Member States of **Non-Alignment Movement and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation** to strengthen institutional capacities for the implementation of the New Partnership in Africa. This year, more than 60 percent of **40 full scholarships** were granted to students from the African countries such as **Lesotho, Kenya, Gambia, Ethiopia, Swaziland, Mauritius, Eritrea, Uganda, San-Tome and Principe, Morocco, Egypt, Nigeria and Mauritania**. The students have already been accepted by the best universities of Azerbaijan in 2018.

In recognition of the preservation of peace and security as vital for sustainable development in the parts of the world, **the Azerbaijan International Development Agency (AIDA)** jointly with the Diplomatic Academy of Azerbaijan (**ADA University**) has recently launched the Advanced Foreign Service Program for Foreign Diplomats from Asia and Africa to support the strengthening leadership skills of the participants and the human capital in the respective countries in the end. Middle and high level diplomats from **Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Togo** have already been approved to participate in the training session in next month in Azerbaijan.

We are honored to recall that Azerbaijan's support to the African states goes back to 1960s when Azerbaijan provided full scholarships for the citizens from the different countries of Africa to contribute to continuous improvement of political and economic as well social-cultural situation in the continent. It is enough to mention that since **1970s some 8000 students** from Africa have studied in Azerbaijan, 800 out of which just came from **Ethiopia**, and they continue successfully contributing to national economies and public administration of their respective countries and establishment friendly relations between Azerbaijan and their countries.

As we accumulate best practices in the field of public administration, we become more active in the international development process to exchange our know-how. The **ASAN** Service established in 2013 provides an easiest access the public services of more than 10 ministries at the same time and at one center. Due to its contribution to transparent public service, creative and innovative approach to the service for the citizens, the ASAN Service was granted the prize of the United Nations in 2015. Currently, a number of countries have requested sharing experience in order to establish ASAN Service in their land. From Africa, **Uganda and Morocco** have already signed respective agreements and we expect signing similar agreement also with **Algiers** on the establishment of ASAN Service in the nearest future.

To sum up, Azerbaijan has assisted more than 30 countries in the African continent by providing humanitarian aid and international development assistance. Azerbaijan has determined to continue and enlarge its support to African states.