

Azerbaijan

Thank you, Madam Chair. As a multi-ethnic and multicultural society with long-standing traditions of coexistence, tolerance, and mutual respect, Azerbaijan has great importance to the work of this forum. Azerbaijan's legislative and policy measures pursuant under the state policy of multiculturalism, aim to ensure the preservation and development of the country's national ethnic and linguistic and religious diversity. This year, officially designated as a year of constitution and sovereignty, marks the 30th anniversary of the adoption of Azerbaijan's constitution, which guarantees equality of rights and freedoms for all, regardless of, among others, race, ethnicity, or religion, affirms the right of everyone to preserve their national identity, and receive education in their mother tongue. Azerbaijan actively supports the preservation and promotion of ethnic cultures by creating an enabling environment for the production of educational and cultural materials. Between 2021 and 2023, dozens of such materials were presented to the public, including a new documentary series prepared by the Baku International Center for Multiculturalism under the Promotion of Ethnic Culture of the Peoples Living in Azerbaijan project. A wide range of multicultural and multilingual publications, including minority language textbooks, literature, historical works and cultural heritage materials have also been issued and distributed. Today, more than 15 newspapers and journals are published in the language of ethnic communities living in Azerbaijan, alongside five regional TV and radio channels operating in the areas with compact minority populations. Through this effort, Azerbaijan reaffirms its commitment to fostering a society where diversity is protected, mutual respect is strengthened, and everyone can thrive. Thank you.