

Dear Chair, Dear Delegates,

For the last two days name of Azerbaijan has been mentioned numerous times.

Indeed there is a great interest and care for the CSOs in Azerbaijan.

The speeches for the last two days is a obvious indicators of that.

Particularly, International media was quite fond in covering the current situation in Azerbaijan.

We are grateful for the care to CSOs in Azerbaijan.

Nevertheless, we have witnessed many and, sometimes, repeated speeches on the issue.

As the member of CSO community of Azerbaijan, having extensive participation in many other international organizations, we have witnessed that, usually, the situation is described only in general terms, lacking some information, which consider as vital for the solution of the situation.

In my speech, I will try to cover the lag left behind in speeches before me in this conference and many other conferences where the situation on Azerbaijan was discussed.

We are interested in the prompt solution of the situation in Azerbaijan, so that we can take on with our activities and help the society in total. We are interested in bringing solution to the current situation.

Usually, the evaluation of the current situation in Azerbaijan usually limited with the mentioning of the arrests of CSO members.

We would say that the main problem right now for us is the Distrust between the International Donors and National Government.

There were cases when some of the donors funded the sectors and organizations, which was not authorized by the contracts they signed with the national government in Azerbaijan.

When this fact was revealed, the mass checking of activities of the CSOs were launched.

The result of the checking is the arrest of the several members of CSO.

Due to these checking, currently, we, among many other organisations, are not in the state to implement projects together with the international donors, which is not into the benefit of the society in Azerbaijan due to the distrust between the international donors and national government.

Again, we are for the improvement of the situation.

We hope that the improvement of the situation via rebuilding the trust between the local government and international donors, will lead to the reactivation of the all civil society organizations in Azerbaijan, which is known as one of the strongest civil societies of the OSCE region.

We also believe that after building the vitally needed trust, freeing the arrested members will be more realizable.

Without the trust, the National government, thinking its being punished because of its political agenda, are less open for the initiatives from the local CSOs, which makes it hard for us to have negotiations. Therefore, the strong civil society in Azerbaijan left with limited capabilities and cannot do more for improving the situation.

We welcome all initiatives for transparency, which can lead to the rebuilding the trust.

I hope with your help, we can build the trust and overcome the obstacles.

Thank you for your attention!

AHMAD ALILI  
CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
15 DILARA ALIYEVA, BAKU, AZERBAIJAN  
ahmadalili@cesd.az