

**THE 2017 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING
11-22 September 2017
Warsaw, Poland**

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Working session 4

**Ensuring equal enjoyment of rights and equal participation in political and
public life in Azerbaijan**

During 2 days we discussed and made statements on very important themes about fundamental freedoms. So I would like to give short political view on Azerbaijani political life. The role of political parties in the socio-political processes of countries is essential. After regaining independency Azerbaijan chosed the way of democratization. It should be noted that nowadays responsibility and transparency in all areas of democracy is on the agenda as well as in Azerbaijan.

Activity of political parties is considered to be one of the key criteria in forming the civil society and democratization of political system. Azerbaijan does its best to ensure equal enjoyment of righrs and equal participaton in political and public life

There are 54 registered political parties in Azerbaijan, 11 of of them are represented in Parliament. It should be noted that the political parties functioning in Azerbaijan differ from each other by their structures, forms and methods. I would like to draw your attention an important amendments to the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on political parties adopted in 2012. The main substance of amendments and additions to the law is related to the financing of political parties in order to ensure equal rights and participation.

According to the amendments to the law the state financing of political parties, candidates nominated by the 10% of the budget allocated to the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan are divided proportionally to the number of votes gained among the political parties which have won at least 3% of valid votes at the last elections to the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan. 40 per cent of the

funds are distributed among the political parties represented in the Parliament, and 50 per cent proportionally to the number of elected deputies. State funding of political parties is a fundamental issue which provides equal rights in political life of Azerbaijan. On the other hand, it serves to the responsibility and transparency of political parties. cooperating in this regard. The draft project was also discussed at the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe and OSCE Baku office in 2011.

Thanks for your attention!