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FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN AZERBAIJAN

Today's discussion is relevant to the whole world. Because trafficking in Human Beings is actual for all countries represented here. Wars, massacres and refugees are reason for spread rapidly of human trafficking. So, thousands of people

fleeing from Iraq and Syria are victims of human trafficking.

This problem is actual for Azerbaijan as well. That is why I want to inform you about the work carried out by Azerbaijan in the fight against trafficking in human beings. As you know, according to UN General Assembly resolution of 18 December, 2013, the July 30 is celebrated as World Day to Combat Human Trafficking. In Azerbaijan a series of events are held in this regard. Actions carried out within the framework of the fight against human trafficking in Baku and different regions of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan has made great strides in recent years in the fight against human trafficking. We have perfect legal framework and education system in this field. In this regard, Azerbaijan carried out cooperation with international organisations. In the framework of The National Action Plan to combat human trafficking, steps are being taken very seriously in the field of defining

of potential human trafficking, awareness, integration and reintegration of victims in society. The work done in the field of combating human trafficking is reflected in the reports prepared by international organisations. The performance of the obligations arising from international instruments ratified by the country is assessed positively.

State bodies, civil society organisations and media representatives work together in implementation of the National Action Plan in the field of combating human trafficking in Azerbaijan.

Human trafficking is modern slavery and a crime against humanity. All the world's governments should jointly fight against human trafficking. Azerbaijan supports all efforts in this area, the country actively defends the family institution.

In particular, I want to emphasise that the United States is actively cooperating with Azerbaijan in the fight against human

trafficking. The United States cooperates with Azerbaijan in the fight against human trafficking in accordance with the priorities identified in the Concept of "Azerbaijan 2020: vision to future". USAID is implementing joint projects with the relevant bodies of Azerbaijan.

Human trafficking is a threat that accepts no boundaries. Partnership is very important in this area. Usually the representatives of US and Azerbaijan criticise each other within the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meetings. However, it needs to talk about the positive aspects of relations between the two countries. So, US is the largest partner of Azerbaijan in the fight against human trafficking.

A few days ago, on September 16, the US Embassy in Azerbaijan held an event about the fight against human trafficking. In March 2016, the US embassy and the Main Department for Combating Human

Trafficking of Ministry of Interior of Azerbaijan, organised an international conference. During the conference, carried out the coordination of joint activities of law enforcement agencies and different persons. One of the programs carried out by the United States in Azerbaijan aimed at combating human trafficking. With the support of the United States, steps were taken to create of shelters for victims of human trafficking and to increase the capacity of the labor of the people there.

As a result of this activity human trafficking is minimised in Azerbaijan. In this respect, I think Azerbaijan's experience in the field of combating human trafficking can be a model for Europe.