

Dr. Ahmad SHAHIDOV

Head of Azerbaijan Institute for Democracy
and Human Rights

Web: www.shahidov.info

E-mail: ahmad@shahidov.info

Tel.: +99450 372 87 30

Amendments and additions to Constitution of Azerbaijan

Today's discussion is devoted to the rule of law. Laws should serve human rights and the stability of the state. Each country tries to regulate its laws so that the citizens can live in prosperous and peace, country can develop in peace and stability. At the same

time, to have a legislative framework that meets the requirements and global challenges of time.

In general, the law is a system that is constantly renewed and got more effective picture. Only the Book sent by God the Holy Quran that remained unchanged for millennia. While all other laws need to be refreshed constantly.

I want to build my today's speech on Referendum which will be held in Azerbaijan. As you know, after 3 days, on September 26 referendum will be held in Azerbaijan related to amendments and additions to Constitution of Azerbaijan. As a lawyer, I inform you that there are 29 titled amendments that are proposed to Constitution of Azerbaijan. These amendments are focused, first of all, on human rights, the rise of state-citizen relations and to build more powerful country. I want to show concrete examples. Because of the debates during ODIHR

Meetings here, I see that you have less information on the referendum in Azerbaijan.

So, what amendments are offered to the Constitution of Azerbaijan?

Equality of all citizens regardless of their religion, nationality, race, gender is protected before the law.

Citizens are guaranteed the right to appeal to the judicial and administrative procedures.

In a Constitution level protection against the tyranny of state agencies and officials is provided.

More efficient and effective adjustments are proposed to activity of municipalities

All damages caused by officials are paid by the State.

The age limit to elected bodies are removed and opens up new opportunities for young people to be represented in elected bodies of country.

Property rights are protected more

effectively.

The reforms carried out aimed at creating conditions for free enterprise in the country.

I can extend this list. All these amendments are aimed at the benefit of the people and the state.

Some colleagues here spoke about the proposed amendments to the Constitution regarding term of presidency from 5 to 7 years. I want to remember some statistics. We hold 3 major elections in Azerbaijan for 5 years. As if the life stops, all major projects in the country freezes, there is a tense atmosphere. Foreign forces using the atmosphere, carry out a different challenge-oriented movements.

I think, to prolong term of presidency from 5 to 7 years does not change anything. Still, the election is held, the candidates put forward his own political ambitions, citizens look, think and makes their choice.

Therefore, Azerbaijan has to amend its Constitution in order to meet the requirements of time, to be renewed constantly and to become stronger. We know hundreds amendments to Constitution in US and in other Western countries throughout history. It is normal and natural. Laws must be renewed and meet the requirements of time.