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**STATEMENT BY MR. T. RAJABOV, HEAD OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION SECTION AND MIGRATION
BOARD OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL
PROTECTION OF THE POPULATION OF THE AZERBAIJANI
REPUBLIC, AT SESSION VIII OF THE THIRTEENTH MEETING
OF THE OSCE ECONOMIC FORUM**

Prague, 26 May 2005

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I should also like to thank the speakers for the information they have presented.

Allow me to inform you briefly about the policy pursued by the Government of Azerbaijan to ensure the socio-economic integration of persons belonging to national minorities.

In accordance with Article 16 of the Labour Code of the Azerbaijani Republic, discrimination among employees on the basis of citizenship, gender, race, nationality, language, religion or other factors unrelated to professional qualifications, job performance or professional skills of the employees is categorically prohibited in labour relations.

Discriminatory provisions are not permitted in the Azerbaijani Republic in laws or collective agreements, which are always based on the constitutional principle of the equality of all citizens.

In accordance with a Decree of the President of the Azerbaijani Republic, the State Labour Inspectorate was established to monitor compliance with laws in the workplace, including matters concerning the prohibition of discrimination.

In connection with vocational professional training of representatives of national minorities and with due regard for their enjoyment of equal rights without any kind of discrimination, an instruction was given to create universal conditions for the enjoyment of these rights and also to prevent any activity or inactivity aimed at violating these rights.

The prohibition of discrimination against different ethnic groups is also ensured through their participation in State bodies at all levels.

The Government is taking active steps to promote the socio-economic development of the various regions of Azerbaijan. The Ministry of Youth, Sport and Tourism is

systematically developing the tourist potential of the regions and, in particular, regions with a large number of ethnic groups, something that also helps to guarantee economic, social and cultural rights.

Thank you for your attention.