UN Resident Coordinator met with high level officials

The UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Ghulam Isaczai had a meeting with the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov. During the meeting, Mr. Hasanov recalled his participation in the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference in New York and discussed its outcome. Mr. Isaczai expressed appreciation for Azerbaijan’s participation and support in UN Peacekeeping operations. Both sides exchanged views about strengthening UN and Azerbaijan cooperation in all spheres.

Mr. Isaczai also met with Secretary General of Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries (TURKPA) Aitybek Mamaiusupov. Mr. Mamaiusupov informed the UN Resident Coordinator about TURKPA’s main activities and emphasized that as a parliamentary dimension of Turkic cooperation, the organization seeks to shape a legislative space for national parliaments, such as approximation of national legislations, experience exchange, sharing practices and accumulation of expert potential of member countries.

TURKPA intends to develop cooperation with the UN and its institutions to support the achievement of sustainable development goals.

Collaboration with the government in youth development sector

The UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Ghulam M. Isaczai and Country Representatives of UNICEF and UNFPA held consultations with the Minister of Youth and Sport, Mr. Azad Rahimov and with the Head of the Department of Youth Policy and Sport Issues of the Presidential Administration, Mr. Yusuf Mammadaliyev to learn about Government’s priorities in the youth development sector and how the UN can collectively support their implementation.

The first round of Development Coordination Thematic Group meetings

Led by the UN Resident Coordinator's office, the development partners met under five thematic groups covering private sector development, agriculture, social and public services, democracy and governance, energy and environment. The groups discussed the current policy priorities of the government of Azerbaijan and the support of the development partners to the realization of these priorities.
**FAO holds a stakeholder consultation meeting on the development of sheep breeding sector**

FAO Azerbaijan and the State Agency for Agricultural Credits and Development under the Ministry of Agriculture organised a stakeholder consultation meeting on the development of the sheep breeding sector. The event aimed to proactively engage with relevant actors in the sheep value chain and to understand the current status of the sub-sector for live sheep and processed sheep.

The project plans to sustainably improve the performance of the sheep value chain to address current challenges in breeding and feeding strategies, animal health and transboundary disease control, as well as product development and market linkage. Read more

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**New members of United Nations Youth Advisory Council attended an induction course**

The United Nations (UN) Office in Azerbaijan organised an induction course for the new members of the UN Youth Advisory Council (UNYAC) who will serve until 2020. Through UNYAC, the UN in Azerbaijan trains and empowers young people from different regions of the country, enabling them to participate at and advise on the work of the UN related to youth development. National and international experts from various UN agencies operating in Azerbaijan trained 15 new members of UNYAC in the fields of environment, human rights, gender equality and children protection. They also briefed the participants about the UN structure and working principles. Following the trainings, new members had meetings with UN resident agencies in Azerbaijan to receive more information on their activities. Read more

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**Third National Model United Nations took place in Baku**

The 3rd National Model United Nations MilliMUN took place in Baku bringing together more than 230 young enthusiasts with strong interest in international diplomacy, conflict resolution and the United Nations values. In four days, young delegates had a chance to step into the shoes of diplomats and negotiate solutions for real world challenges at the mock United Nations committee hearings. Held every year, the MilliMUN is traditionally organised by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Youth and Sports. Read more

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**New programme to fight climate change in Azerbaijan**

A new regional EU4Climate project financed by the European Union kicked off in Baku putting multistakeholder partnerships at the forefront of effective climate change action in countries of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) region. For the first time in Azerbaijan, the EU4Climate aims to build national capacities to integrate low-emission and climate-resilient actions into national development plans as well as align climate change legislation with EU standards. Long-term low greenhouse gas emission strategies will be developed as a part of this initiative with a forward-looking vision to serve the climate action agenda in all six EaP countries till 2050. The project will establish concrete industry-specific guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreement across various sectors of the economy including agriculture, construction and energy in each partner country. Read more

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**OHCHR and Azerbaijan Bar Association hold workshop for lawyers on UN human rights system and defense mechanism**

The Southern Caucasus Regional Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Azerbaijani Bar Association (ABA) co-organised a workshop for lawyers on United Nations human rights system and defence mechanism in the field of justice administration focusing on practical application and prospects. The event brought together over 40 members of ABA, government officials, representatives of local and international organisations. The participants exchanged views on collaboration areas with UN in national context and Azerbaijan’s ratification status regarding participation in UN human rights mechanisms and implementation of these decisions. Read more
University teachers trained in Azerbaijan towards inclusive quality education for children with disabilities

290 university teachers have been trained on inclusive education in 5 districts including the capital Baku within the project on Expanding Quality Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities in Azerbaijan. The project is implemented by UNICEF in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and funded by the European Union. The trainings series aim to support implementation of state programs on inclusive education.

UNDP and Government team up with top innovators and IT groups to boost girls’ participation in ICT

The international Girls in ICT Day brought together over 70 schoolgirls aspiring a career of future IT gurus at the Shamakhi City Art Education Centre. Young girls were informed about information technologies, its employment opportunities and ways of launching startup projects. The awareness raising campaign was jointly organised by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies, the Ministry of Education, the UN Development Programme, the office of the Shamakhi District Executive Authority, the Azerbaijani Women in ICT Club popularly known in Azerbaijan as Femmes Digitales, the STEP IT Academy and the Barama Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre. As a part of the campaign, a training workshop was also held for young girls in the capital Baku on themes of digital entrepreneurship, social networks, the robotics industry and women jobseekers’ perspectives in these fields. Read more

UN’s statement on recent media reports concerning submission and publication of two documents by the Government of Armenia

With respect to recent news media reports concerning submission and publication of two documents by the Government of Armenia as document of the 40th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, under agenda item 3 (Item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development), the United Nations would like to clarify that the document in question was an annex to the note verbale to OHCHR (secretariat of the Human Rights Council) from the Government of Armenia.

A Member State may request circulation of a document that it considers relevant to the work of a UN intergovernmental organ, such as the Human Rights Council, as an official document of that organ. Such documents are reproduced as received. The Secretariat has no responsibility whatsoever on the content of the document circulated as an official document, as such responsibility remains with the Member State requesting circulation of the document.

“Less cars, more life” bike ride held in Baku

The bike rides under the motto “Less cars, more life” was held in Baku to mark 7 April World Health Day. The ride was initiated by the Azerbaijani Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, organised by the World Health Organization, the Public Health and Reforms Centre of the Azerbaijani Health Ministry, supported by Azerbaijan Cycling Federation and the Republic Olympic Cycling School. The purpose of the bike ride was to instil healthy lifestyle habits and promote the tradition of a car-free day. Read more

WHO and Azerbaijan Ministry of Health held a press conference and roundtable discussion on European Immunization Week

The Country Office of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Health has held a press conference and a roundtable discussion for the European Immunization Week (EIW) to promote immunization as a vital intervention to preventing diseases and protecting life.

This year, the purpose of the European Immunization Week, 24-30 April, is to extend the vaccine coverage by raising the awareness of the benefits of vaccination. Since 2007, the Azerbaijani Ministry of Health joins WHO European Region in celebrating the EIW. Read more
Series of lectures for youth

The UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Ghulam Isaczai met with Azerbaijani youth at the office of Azerbaijani Student Youth Organizations’ Union within the framework of “Explore the United Nations through learning” project. The Resident Coordinator talked to young people about his personal experience and informed them about the history, structure and activities of the organisation.

Within the project, heads and representatives of UN resident agencies in Azerbaijan, including FAO, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNEC, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO, also met with young participants. During the meetings, UN officials briefed youth activists about the work of their respective agencies and spoke about the role of youth in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

UN-Azerbaijan partnership discussed on AZTV

The UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Ghulam Isaczai was a guest of the "Rakurs" programme at Azerbaijan National TV and answered questions on various aspects of the UN-Azerbaijan partnership. In particular, Mr Isaczai spoke about key aspects of the UN-Azerbaijan Partnership Framework; progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Azerbaijan’s contribution to global activities of the United Nations; and importance of the high-profile events hosted by Azerbaijan in close cooperation with the UN.

IOM Azerbaijan launched its first publication “TERRA Toolkit: Community Approach to Radicalisation”

IOM Azerbaijan launched its first publication, “TERRA Toolkit: Community Approach to Radicalisation”, devoted to different issues of preventing violent extremism and radicalisation as a part of USAID funded Community Resilience to Vulnerabilities (CRV) Activity, jointly implemented with the State Committee on Religious Associations of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Toolkit takes a preventative approach towards radicalisation leading to terrorism. It proposes a community approach designed to address and halt the progress of an individual through the possible radicalisation process.

Download the publication in Azerbaijani language. Explore the toolkit online.