Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit in Baku brought high level UN officials to Azerbaijan

25-26 October 2019: The president of the 74th session of the General Assembly H.E. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, United Nations Under Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs Mrs. Rosemary DiCarlo, the Secretary General of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi, The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNWRA) Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl, the head of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBT) Dr. Lassina Zerbo, the Regional Director of UN IOM's Regional Office in Vienna for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Ms. Szabados, Argentina, UN Azerbaijan officials attended the XVIII Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement in Baku.

23-27 October 2019: During the official visit to Azerbaijan, the President of the 74th session of the General Assembly H.E. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande met with the President of Azerbaijan H.E. Ilham Aliyev. They discussed issues raised at the NAM Summit including cooperation between the movement and the UN and the role played by Azerbaijan to promote shared values. Mr. Muhammad-Bande also visited Khazar women resource centre, which is a joint initiative by the Government of Azerbaijan, UNDP and UN Women. He met women entrepreneurs who spoke about their experiences and success stories and how they benefited from the support of the centre. H.E. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande also met with Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov and UNCT members in Azerbaijan within the framework of his visit. Read more

24-26 October 2019: During her visit to Azerbaijan, UN Under Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Mrs. Rosemary DiCarlo represented the Secretary-General at the XVIII Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement and delivered a statement on his behalf. She also had meetings with President Ilham Aliyev, First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva and Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov, as well as with the United Nations Country Team in Baku, civil society and representatives of IDP community. Read more
UN Day celebrated in Azerbaijan with human stories on #transforminglives

24 October 2019: The United Nations (UN) Office in Azerbaijan and ADA University have organised a special event commemorating the UN Day highlighting the human stories on how the organization transformed lives in Azerbaijan. Bringing together some 250 participants from the government, diplomatic community, civil society, academia and mass media. President of the UN General Assembly Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, Azerbaijan’s Deputy Foreign Minister Hafiz Pashayev and the UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan Ghulam Isaczai have spoken in the opening session of the commemoration event. The session is followed by eight presentations by people who benefitted from cooperation with the United Nations in various areas including youth, gender equality, education, women empowerment, employment, health and others.

International conference on disabilities held in Baku

3 October 2019: The international conference “Leave no person with disabilities behind – with accessibility to inclusion” brought together representatives of civil society organisations from 14 countries, as well as government officials and members of the international community. The event was organised by the Union of Disabled People Organisations of Azerbaijan, with support of UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). The participants discussed the role of civil society in the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), strengthening social inclusion through education, sports, recreation and arts; increasing employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for persons with disabilities and other relevant issues. The UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan, Mr. Ghulam M. Isaczai informed the participants about the activities of the UN agencies to support Azerbaijan’s efforts to improve the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food released statement on her visit to Azerbaijan

1 October 2019: “Vigorous economic growth and social transformation over the past 20 years have turned Azerbaijan into an impressive upper middle-income country, but it should work towards economic diversification and provide help for smallholders,” UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Ms Hilal Elver, said during the press conference dedicated to the findings of her visit to Azerbaijan from 1 to 11 October. Her preliminary statement also reads that “the fragility of Azerbaijan’s economy because of its heavy dependence on oil and gas production highlights a need for diversification by increasing investments in the non-oil sector.”

The Special Rapporteur visited Baku, Guba and Ganja cities. She met farmers, weavers, women entrepreneurs, representatives of international development agencies, and children with disabilities in a public orphanage, as well as local and national government officials. The Special Rapporteur will present a comprehensive report to the Human Rights Council in Geneva in March 2020. Read more

UNDP, Ministry of Agriculture launch first joint agro-tourism initiative in Azerbaijan

12 October 2019: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Ministry of Agriculture launched the first joint agro-tourism tour as part of a broader public-private partnership initiative in Hajigabul that aims to promote the benefits of rural tourism and sustainable farming for economic and community development. The agro-tourism tour took place at a private farmland in the Meyniman village of Hajigabul owned by the Red Valley private company.

Organised by the UNDP in cooperation with the Agrarian Supply and Procurement OSJC under the Ministry of Agriculture, the agro-tourism tour is the first public activity to promote rural tourism within the project on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Globally Important Agrobiodiversity funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), with co-financing from the UNDP, and jointly implemented by the UNDP and the Ministry of Agriculture. Read more
UNICEF and Heydar Aliyev Foundation sign MoU

18 October 2019: The Heydar Aliyev Foundation (HAF) and UNICEF Azerbaijan announced a new chapter in their long-standing partnership – with the focus on Early Childhood Development (ECD). Mr. Edward Carwardine, UNICEF Representative and Ms. Leyla Aliyeva, Vice-president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

It sets out a framework for cooperation between the HAF and UNICEF to support strengthening of integrated ECD approaches in Azerbaijan through high-level policy advocacy, promotion and public awareness raising, and building broader partnerships with influencers. Partners noted the proven impact that ECD programmes can have on increased child growth, higher language and cognitive functioning, higher academic achievement and reduced chances of dropping out of school. ECD is also known to contribute to higher economic productivity and reduced health challenges and social welfare support.

WHO organizes after-action review meeting on the response and management of the 2019 measles outbreak

16-18 October 2019: WHO organised an interactive three-day After-Action Review meeting of the measles outbreak response in Baku.

An after-action review (AAR) is a qualitative review of actions taken to respond to an emergency as a means of identifying best practices, gaps and lessons learned. Following an emergency response to a public health event, an AAR seeks to identify what worked well or not and how these practices can be maintained, improved, institutionalized and shared with relevant stakeholders. The meeting brought together representatives from the Ministry of Health, the Republican Centre for Hygiene and Epidemiology, the Centre for Public Health and Reforms, the State Agency on the Mandatory Health Insurance and the Republican Anti-Plague Station.

WHO hold trainings for journalists on primary health care and non-communicable diseases

30-31 October 2019: The World Health Organization (WHO) Country Office in Azerbaijan held a workshop for some 20 journalists on primary health care and non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The representative of Public Health and Reform Centre and State Mandatory Health Insurance Agency also attended the seminar.

The capacity building event aimed at sensitising the local media on NCDs before the official presentation of the STEPS report (National survey on the risk factors of Non-Communicable Diseases) on 19 December 2019. Another goal of the seminar was to introduce the concept of primary health care to representatives of the local mass media, as part of preparations for primary health care reforms in 2020.

UNFPA strengthens institutional capacities for multi-sectoral response to gender-based violence in Azerbaijan

17 October 2019: The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) teamed up with the East European Institute for Reproductive Health (EEIRH) for strengthening multi-sectoral response to gender-based violence (GBV) in Azerbaijan. The two-day workshop held on 15-16 October was part of the regional initiative, introduced in 2014 by UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office in partnership with EEIRH. The workshop aimed to explore the ways of introducing the Essential Service Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures on gender-based violence at a national level.

The packages provide clear and detailed description of the coordinated actions to be taken by relevant organisations engaged in provision of assistance and services to GBV survivors. Read more
The United Nations in Azerbaijan released statement on violence against women and girls

21 October 2019: In light of recent reported cases of often fatal violence against women and girls in Azerbaijan, the United Nations in Azerbaijan urges immediate, concerted action to protect women and girls at risk of all forms of violence and to hold accountable those responsible for committing such violence. Violence against women and girls will undermine the nation’s efforts to grow and thrive – research commissioned by the UN has indicated that violence against women is likely to cost Azerbaijan US$ 764 million every year in lost economic output caused by irreversible population losses, incapacity, disability, reduced productivity of victims and the costs of providing services in response to violence. The Government of Azerbaijan should urgently ratify the Council of Europe’s Istanbul Convention. Read more

Water-saving awards for hotels in Azerbaijan and Georgia to contribute to water sustainability

9 October 2019: UNDP commenced the first official training of the H2Otel Water Saving Awards in Azerbaijan, joining forces with leading tourism and hospitality organizations of the South Caucasus region to introduce a new water sustainability excellence system in Azerbaijan and Georgia. The training programme is organised as part of the Kura II Project for Advancing Integrated Water Resources Management across the Kura River Basin. Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the project is implemented in Azerbaijan and Georgia by the UNDP, in close collaboration with the Governments of the two countries. The H2Otel Water Saving Awards is to endorse hotels in Azerbaijan and Georgia for undertaking innovative measures to reduce water consumption and eliminate water pollution in the hospitality industry. Read more

IOM and its partners continue to strengthen effectiveness of combating human trafficking

4 October 2019: Mission of International Organization for Migration to Azerbaijan in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs’ Main Department on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings co-facilitated a round-table on Strengthening Prevention Measures to Effectively Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Azerbaijan. Relevant representatives of Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of People, Ministry of Education and their regional offices, as well as State Migration Service, NGOs on protection of the rights of minors attended the event. The agency with its partners continues the public campaign to raise awareness about human trafficking at the local level through publications at airports, schools also large posters displaying in underground railway stations throughout the capital of Azerbaijan, illustrating different types of exploitation and the violence associated with them, also hot line information for help. Read more

Resident Coordinator attends the launch of “SƏLİS” platform and joins a tour to laboratories of Azerbaijan Food Safety Institute

30 October 2019: UN RC also spoke at the launching ceremony of “SƏLİS” e-services platform by the Council on State Support to NGOs under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The “SƏLİS” system provides 20 new e-services for civil society organisations and make processes easier in terms of faster application for grants, appeal, monitoring, evaluation, contracting and others. “Launching the "SƏLİS" system, the Council makes a significant step forward in ensuring transparency, accountability and efficiency of its activities,” Mr. Isaczai said.

31 October 2019: Representatives of international organizations and the UN Resident Coordinator were invited for a tour of the laboratories of Azerbaijan Food Safety Institute.
The President of UN General Assembly H.E. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande interacted with ADA students at the UN Day event. The photo was featured in photo highlights of the week of UNITED NATIONS’ Facebook account.
Baku, 24 October 2019. Photo / Spokesperson for UNPGA

International Day of the Girl is celebrated in Baku with a football festival to showcase girls’ skills, talents and potential, organised by UNICEF with AFFA and supported by the Embassy of Netherlands in Azerbaijan.
Baku, 11 October 2019. Photo/ UNICEF Azerbaijan