



AZERBAIJAN - NATO PARTNERSHIP

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/ AZERBAIJAN AT A GLANCE

TERRITORY

Azerbaijan is the largest country in the South Caucasus region at the crossroads of Western Asia and Eastern Europe. It borders with Iran (765 km) and Turkey (11 km) on the south, Russia (390 km) on the north, Georgia (480 km) on the north-west and Armenia (1007 km) on the west. Its territory extends over 86,600 square km. The country is situated in the latitude 38° and 42° of north and in the longitude of 44° and 52° east. Baku is the capital.

POPULATION

As of March 2014 the population of the Republic of Azerbaijan was estimated at 9.494 million. 49.7% of population formed men, 50.3% women. Density of the country population made 110 persons per square km. There are 1011 women to per 1000 men. 53.2% of total population is urban residents and 46.8% - rural residents. The proportion of citizens aged up to 14 years is 22.3%, from 15 to 64 years 71.9% and over 65 years 5.8% of the population.

RELIGION

Azerbaijan is a secular country, in article 48 of its Constitution ensures the liberty of worship to everyone. Approximately 95% of the population of Azerbaijan is Muslim. Other traditional religions or confessions followed in the country are Orthodoxy, Catholicism, Protestantism, Judaism, and others.

POLITICAL SYSTEM

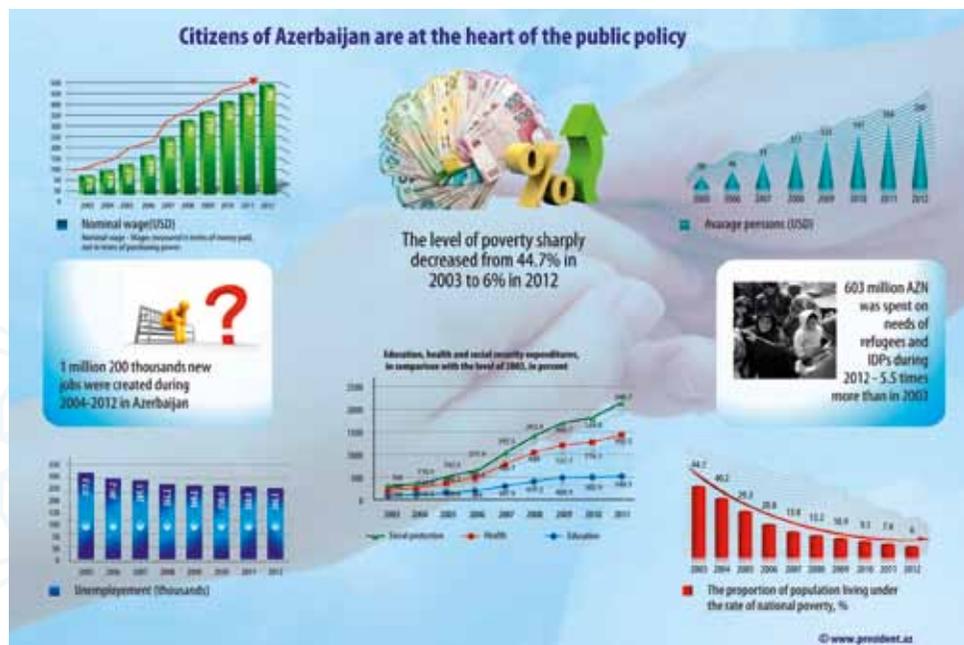
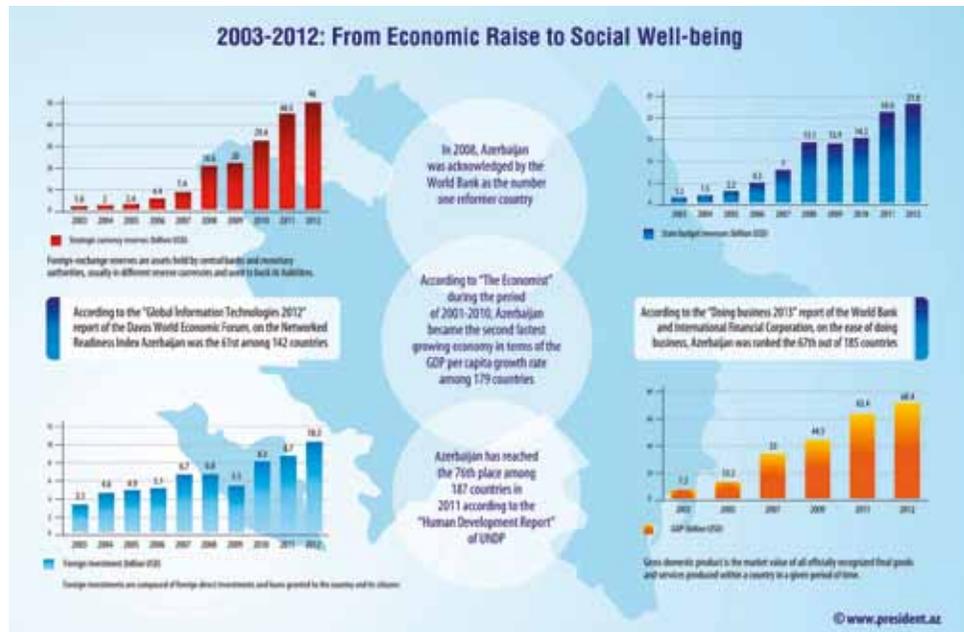
Azerbaijan is a democratic, constitutional, secular and unitary republic. The sovereign duty of the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan is to determine its future fate and the form of independent and free rule. In Azerbaijan power is divided among the legislative, executive and judicial branches. Each of them acts in accordance with the constitution and legislative acts.

LANGUAGE

The Azerbaijani language is the official state language of Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijani language belongs to the southwestern group of Turkic languages. .

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

The extensive production and export of natural resources has given an impetus to economic growth. The channeling of oil revenues into the non-oil sector has allowed it to grow at an average of 11 per cent a year over the last 10 years. In 2011 the real GDP had tripled in comparison with 2003. In 2011 Azerbaijan accounted for over 70 per cent of the added value generated in the South Caucasus, thus becoming a regional leader. Over the past eight years the country's strategic currency reserves increased by more than 22 times, and reached 41 billion US dollars at the end of 2011, which is about 10 times higher than the state's foreign debt. As a result of the successful social policy, the level



of poverty declined from 49 per cent in 2000 to 7.6 per cent in 2011, while salaries and pensions increased several times over. In the World Bank classification of per capita GDP, Azerbaijan entered the group of countries with "high average incomes" earlier than other CIS states. In addition, according to the report of the UN Development Programme on human development in 2010, Azerbaijan left the group of countries with "average human development" and entered the group with "high human development". Azerbaijan's gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 5.8% and reached AZN 57.7 billion in 2013. Volume of GDP on per capita of population was formed 6207.3 manats (7912.5 US dollars). /

/ OVERVIEW OF AZERBAIJAN-NATO PARTNERSHIP

The history of the Azerbaijan-NATO relationship dates back to March 1992 when Azerbaijan, together with some Central and Eastern European countries, joined a newly established consultative forum – the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC), which subsequently became the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC), in 1997.

The cornerstone of the substantive Partnership between Azerbaijan and NATO was laid down on 4 May 1994, when the late President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev, signed the Partnership for Peace Framework Document.

The partnership with NATO serves Azerbaijan's strategic goal of integration into Euro-Atlantic structures. Political dialogue, participation in NATO-led operations, emerging security challenges, and practical cooperation on a broad range of issues with a special focus on defence reform constitute the main directions of Azerbaijan's partnership with NATO. Cooperation between Azerbaijan and NATO on the basis of mutual interests, aimed at the elimination of instability, conflicts and threats, is incorporated in the National Security Concept and Military Doctrine of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan actively uses the appropriate partnership tools to achieve goals reflected in the PfP Framework Document as well as in bilateral cooperation documents. The PfP Presentation Document (1996), Planning and Review Process (1997) and Individual Partnership Action Plan (2004) documents are the main national texts that define key principles and goals of Azerbaijan's individual partnership with NATO. In these documents Azerbaijan reiterates its readiness to cooperate with NATO in areas such as security and defence sector reforms, developing military

forces according to NATO standards, participation in NATO-led operations, energy security, civil emergency planning and addressing emerging security challenges, as well as on science, environment and public diplomacy.

The Individual Partnership Action Plan which Azerbaijan adhered to in 2004 makes it possible to maintain regular political dialogue, systematize bilateral cooperation as an overarching tool and agree on new cooperation activities of mutual interest in a more flexible manner. Azerbaijan has successfully completed its first (2005-2007), second (2008-2010) and third (2012-2013) IPAP cycles. The next cycle (2014-2015) of the NATO-Azerbaijan IPAP has already been submitted for NATO consideration.

...Azerbaijan is a valuable partner for NATO. And NATO is a valuable partner for Azerbaijan. We have an opportunity to build a solid, long-term partnership. And it is an opportunity I am convinced we must seize.

A.F. Rasmussen
7 September 2014, Baku

In the framework of its Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme based upon the PfP Framework Document, Azerbaijan has been participating in 200 events each year on average. The Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme enables Azerbaijan to benefit from various activities such as courses, exercises and conferences organized by the NATO Allies and some Partners.



...We intend to strengthen our political dialogue, including the discussion of strategic issues such as energy security and the fight against terrorism. ...Allies appreciate the “steadfast support” provided by Azerbaijani troops in Afghanistan and appreciate the political support to NATO operations through overflight and transit lines.

A.F. Rasmussen
15 January 2014, Brussels

Another important mechanism is the Planning and Review Process, which is designed to help Partners identify and evaluate forces and capabilities which might be made available for multinational operations and exercises in conjunction with NATO forces. It also helps Partners to develop defence planning practices using NATO experience. Azerbaijan has undertaken a number of ‘Partnership Goals’ on defence planning and preparation of forces for peace support operations.

POLITICAL DIALOGUE

Political dialogue between Azerbaijan and NATO has always been vivid and rich in substance. The political dialogue is conducted through regular contacts between Azerbaijani and NATO officials, participation in summit meetings and NATO-Azerbaijan consultations. The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan has visited NATO HQ seven times (in 1994, 1996, 2004, 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2014) and taken part in eight EAPC and ISAF summit meetings (in 1997, 1999, 2002, 2004, 2008, 2010, 2011 and 2012). The NATO Secretary General has visited Azerbaijan five times (in 1998, 2001, 2003, 2004 and 2012).

The NATO-Azerbaijan political dialogue provides an overarching framework for further development of partnerships based on PFP principles. To date, the PFP Framework Document constitutes the legal basis for cooperation between NATO and PFP partners. According to the Framework Document “In joining the Partnership, the member States of the North Atlantic Alliance and the other States subscribing to this Document recall that they are committed to the preservation of democratic societies, their freedom from coercion and intimidation, and the maintenance of the principles of international law. They reaffirm their commitment to fulfil in good faith the obligations of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of the Universal

Declaration on Human Rights; specifically, to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, to respect existing borders and to settle disputes by peaceful means”.

In the NATO-Azerbaijan political dialogue, issues like partnership, regional security, the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, operations, contributing to peacekeeping operations, energy security etc. are matters for bilateral discussions and consultations.

...We are very grateful to NATO for its support of Azerbaijan’s territorial integrity. This is reflected in the documents of the Chicago summit, as well as the previous Lisbon and Bucharest summits.

President Ilham Aliyev,
7 September 2012, Baku

The persistence of protracted conflicts in the South Caucasus, in particular the conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, continues to be a matter of great concern for the Alliance. Azerbaijan adheres to a political solution of the conflict that upholds its territorial integrity. Azerbaijan highly values NATO’s principled position in this regard, which was reiterated at the last NATO Summit in Chicago in May 2012, where NATO Heads of State and Government declared their commitment to and support for efforts toward a peaceful settlement of regional conflicts, based upon the principles of territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty and the norms of international law, the United Nations Charter, and the Helsinki Final Act.

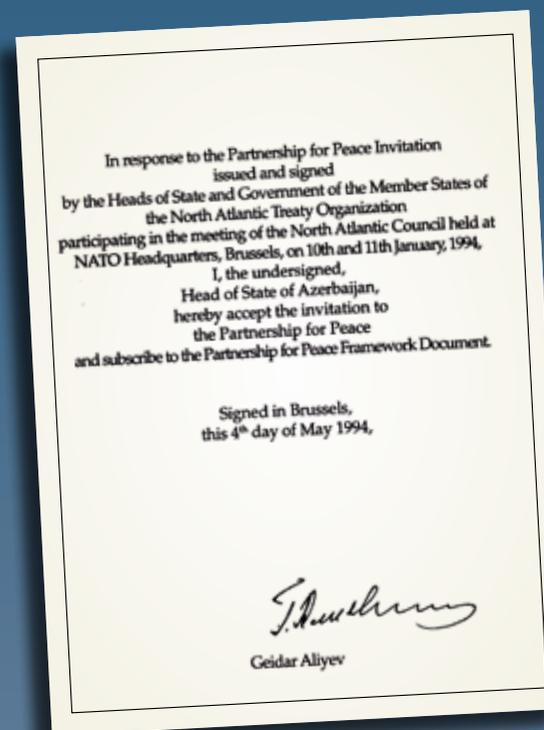


NATO Secretary General visits Azerbaijan
September 7, 2012



We hope that our participation in the “Partnership for Peace” program will allow the promotion of our participation in the establishment of an effective system of collective security in Europe. I think that the democratic principles, which form the basis of the North Atlantic union, will help our successful cooperation in the elimination of the obstacles preventing peace and stability in Transcaucasia and other regions, as well as contribute to the progress and development of all the nations.

President of Azerbaijan
Heydar Aliyev,
ceremony of
the signature
the PFP framework
document Brussels,
NATO HQ, 4 May 1994





Azerbaijan OCC unit conducts training with NATO counterparts

/ AZERBAIJAN-NATO MILITARY COOPERATION

TOWARD INTEROPERABLE FORCES

Military cooperation between Azerbaijan's Armed Forces and NATO constitutes the core of NATO-Azerbaijan relations. The Individual Partnership Program (IPP), which was recently transformed into the Individual Partnership Cooperation Program (IPCP), has proved to be the most practical PFP tool, providing wide-ranging training and exercise opportunities (up to 200 activities annually). Azerbaijan develops its IPCP with a view to supporting the main national military and defence objectives, placing the highest priority on military education and training, language training, military exercises, defence planning and budgeting, logistics, cyber defence and energy security.

In 1997 Azerbaijan joined the Planning and Review Process (PARP) aimed at providing a basis for defence and force planning in accordance with NATO standards and procedures, achieving interoperability with Allied forces, and identifying forces and capabilities that might be available for multinational training, exercises and operations. To achieve these objectives in the PARP framework and make forces available to PFP training and exercises and NATO-led peace support operations, the Azerbaijani MOD established a peacekeeping unit, currently a battalion, which will be further enhanced up to a peacekeeping brigade. PARP has played an essential role in providing NATO's recommendations, support and guidance in the field of defence and force planning. Every year Azerbaijan together with NATO experts and Allies review and further develop the set of Partnership Goals to support current national military goals and defence objectives. The number of Partnership Goals accepted by Azerbaijan has been increasing steadily, and usually

the package includes up to 40 Partnership Goals that cover the wide range of military and defence aspects and serve as a fundamental basis for forces earmarked for peacekeeping operations.

To complement the PARP process and achieve a higher level of interoperability with NATO forces, Azerbaijan continues to use the training, evaluation and feedback tools of the Operational Capabilities Concept (OCC) Evaluation and Feedback (E&F) programme. Azerbaijan has used this process to train and evaluate an infantry company. In 2010 Azerbaijan declared an infantry battalion to the OCC E&F programme. The evaluation process for the battalion will be completed in May 2014, when NATO Evaluation level 2 is conducted.

Through training programmes and participation in peacekeeping missions and exercises, PFP helps foster a new generation of officers fully interoperable with their NATO counterparts. In this regard, the Partnership Staff Element (PSE) concept is the most valuable tool. The PSE concept creates possibilities for Partners to deploy their officers within various NATO headquarters and commands, to gain experience and knowledge working side-by-side with Allies in the same headquarters and offices. Azerbaijan utilizes this instrument effectively and since 2002 has sent more than 20 officers to various PSE posts, making it one of the biggest Partner staff contributors among the PFP countries. Today Azerbaijan and NATO are valuable partners for one another. Azerbaijan's Armed Forces also have effective bilateral cooperation programmes with NATO Member states, which consequently enhance the relations between NATO and Azerbaijan.

TROOP CONTRIBUTOR

The fight against terrorism and asymmetric threats are all unfortunately part of the overall globalization of international relations. Although Azerbaijan suffers from foreign aggression and terrorism caused by Armenia, it took responsibility for a broader security aspect of the international community by contributing to the international and NATO-led operations in Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan. Azerbaijan began its peacekeeping mission in October of 1999 by deploying one platoon (34 personnel) to Kosovo, as part of KFOR. This platoon provided security in Dragosh town between October 1999 and April 2008. Azerbaijan was also part of the Multinational Force in Iraq and deployed a company (151 personnel) from 2003 to December 2008 within USAR troops that protected the al-Haditha Dam in Western Iraq. Azerbaijan joined the ISAF platoon in November 2002. Since then Azerbaijan has twice doubled its numbers in Afghanistan, and currently has a company, medics and field engineers deployed within the Turkish forces in ISAF. Azerbaijan is also planning to participate in the Post-2014 Resolute Support training and advice mission in Afghanistan, with troops, training efforts and allocations of funds.

BUILDING CAPABLE DEFENCE

Evolving security circumstances and emerging new challenges and threats demand flexible approaches and instruments within the national defence and security system. Azerbaijan is responding to this appropriately through a transformation of its armed forces and ongoing defence and security sector reforms. Azerbaijan was one of the first Partners to join the Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP) in 2004, which was suggested by NATO as a new mechanism to provide the Alliance's assistance with defence reforms. In the IPAP framework Azerbaijan has launched various processes to develop an effective defence system based on national strategy and procedures as well as efficient interagency

cooperation. Based on the National Security Concept that was published on 23 May 2007, Azerbaijan completed the Military Doctrine and the Maritime Security Strategy. These laid the ground for the Strategic Defence Review (SDR) aimed at the development of a more effective and capable defence system and armed forces. The SDR results will identify long-term modernization and defence plans. In addition, the SDR also embodies the adjustment of logistics support to modern standards, improvement of the supply system, gradual modernization and replacement of military equipment, and establishment of a modern command and control system within the Armed Forces. These priorities have also been included in the IPAP as mid- and long-term goals.

Azerbaijan, as a developer of rich hydrocarbon resources, plays an important role in ensuring energy security in global markets. A number of successful energy projects such as Baku-Supsa, Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan export oil pipelines and the South Caucasus gas pipeline (Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum) have increased the importance of the Black Sea and Caspian Sea regions and contributed to European and global energy security. To share its experience and knowledge in the field of energy security with NATO and Partner countries, Azerbaijan recently decided to establish the Partnership Training and Education Centre on Energy Security, to provide qualitative training and education to all Allies and Partners in line with the interoperability objectives and priorities.

As an active Partner, Azerbaijan will continue to use all available Partnership tools and mechanisms effectively. Azerbaijan also will continue its participation in NATO peacekeeping missions and contribute to global peace and stability, acting as a useful and responsible member of the international community.

/ CONTRIBUTION TO NATO-LED OPERATIONS

Participation in NATO-led operations is among the key areas of cooperation between the Alliance and Azerbaijan. The National Security Concept of Azerbaijan identifies "participation in peacekeeping and crisis-response operations under the mandate of the appropriate international organizations" as one of the main objectives of its defence policy. Participation in operations is a vivid indication of the country's determination to contribute to international peace and security, and also serves to develop the capabilities and enhance the interoperability of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan.

Proceeding from the indivisibility of security, troops from Azerbaijan were part of the NATO-led operation in Kosovo (KFOR) from 1999 to 2008, engaged in peacekeeping operation in Iraq from 2003 to 2008 and currently Azerbaijan is contributing to the International Security

Assistance Force (ISAF) operation in Afghanistan.

Azerbaijan decided to join ISAF in November 2002. Deployed since September 2003, Azerbaijani peacekeepers initially consisted of one platoon of 22 servicemen, and that number has gradually increased to 94 servicemen. An infantry company, mine clearance experts, a medical assistant and staff officers from Azerbaijan are serving alongside NATO forces, as part of a Turkish contingent, and are involved in patrolling and escorting missions as well as the training of Afghanistan National Army units.

Azerbaijan's contribution to the ISAF operations is not only political and military but also takes the form of logistic support – air and land transport, as well as training, humanitarian mine action and financial aid for the Afghan National Army Trust Fund.



Azerbaijani peacekeeper
trains Afghani soldier



Azerbaijani peacekeeper
with local child in Kosovo

Azerbaijan was one of first countries to open its airspace and airports for use by the anti-terror coalition in the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan. Since then Azerbaijan has played a very important role in facilitating transit to and from Afghanistan. Currently air, land, sea and multimodal shipments are under way, including in the context of redeployment. As a key component of NATO's Northern Distribution Network, Azerbaijan provides a secure route for 40 percent of ISAF multi-modal transit into Afghanistan. In addition, the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railroad and the new Alat International Sea Port, once they become functional, will have a strategic impact that goes beyond redeployment. They will revive a Silk Road, which has historically been a lifeline for development and prosperity in the region and would consequently boost the Afghan economy.

Azerbaijan attaches great importance to the sustainment of the Afghan National Security Forces, has therefore contributed one million euros to the ANA Trust Fund and has pledged another two million euros.

Government agencies and academic institutions organize regular training courses and seminars for Afghan officials. Since 2010 ADA University has been organizing a two-week training course on good governance for the government representatives of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, focusing on different aspects of "State and Nation Building in Transition".

The Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) is actively engaged in humanitarian mine action in Afghanistan. It offers training and mentoring for Afghan experts on mine clearance, donates office equipment, and has printed and delivered books and manuals for schools on mine awareness.

Azerbaijan has reaffirmed its commitment to peace and security in Afghanistan by declaring its support to the post-2014 NATO training, advising and assisting mission in Afghanistan. As a potential operational partner in the post-2014 NATO mission, Azerbaijan is involved in the decision-shaping process for mission planning, in compliance with the Political Military Framework.



Azerbaijani peacekeeper with a group
of local children in Afghanistan



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Azerbaijan.



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NATO PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE "EMERGING SECURITY CHALLENGES: ENHANCING ENERGY SECURITY IN THE XXI CENTURY"

22 - 23 May 2013 Baku



/ EMERGING SECURITY CHALLENGES

Emerging security challenges are potential, upcoming, non-traditional threats to our security that are real, and traditional policy patterns are unsuited to addressing them. International terrorism, cyber attacks, piracy, attacks on energy supply, as well as manmade and natural disasters are real challenges that extend beyond national borders. These unavoidable emerging challenges necessitate changing our policy patterns in order to provide security from such threats effectively.

When discussing emerging security challenges, the protection of critical energy infrastructure occupies an important place. The 2010 Strategic Concept commits NATO not only "to enhance the capacity to detect and defend against international terrorism" but also to "develop the capacity to contribute to energy security, including protection of critical infrastructure and transit areas and lines". These commitments entail analysis of the threat, strategic assessments, consultation, planning and cooperation with partners. Cooperative efforts by the NATO Allied/Partner community in the area of overlap between counter-terrorism and protection of energy infrastructure constitute an important response to these requirements.

Mindful of this, NATO considers Azerbaijan an important ally in cooperation on energy security, and Azerbaijan actively participates in EAPC activities on energy infrastructure protection and countering terrorist threats in this field. Since March 2008 Azerbaijan has chaired the informal EAPC PAP-T Working Group on the Protection of Energy infrastructure, in the light of its vast experience in energy security. The aim of this Group is to develop a common understanding of the security threats and risks to energy infrastructure. A shared understanding of these challenges is essential to enhance

ideas and best practices on counter-terrorism and other threats to energy infrastructure. Azerbaijan and NATO are continuing a political dialogue and exchanging experience on the protection of critical energy infrastructure as well.

Azerbaijan is a country of vital importance for the energy security of Europe and for peace and stability in the Caucasus. Energy security is a great issue of common interest. It has a strategic dimension and a security aspect. We can further develop our partnership in this area.

A.F. Rasmussen
15 January 2014, Brussels

Azerbaijan attaches importance to cooperation with NATO in the field of anti-terrorism, which the international community must tackle together. NATO has been actively engaged in the fight against terrorism and focuses on improved threat awareness and preparedness, developing adequate capabilities and enhancing engagement with partner countries and other international actors. Azerbaijan is building its interaction with the NATO and EAPC countries in a wide range of areas relevant to the fight against terrorism, including the military response to terrorism, enhancement of national counter-terrorism training capabilities, intelligence and information sharing, border security and civil protection anti-terrorist measures. At the same time Azerbaijan actively participates in the Partnership Action Plan against Terrorism launched during the NATO Prague Summit

in 2002 and aims to contribute NATO and partner countries' coordination of the struggle against terrorism. After PAP-T was accepted as the main framework, Azerbaijan implemented a number of important counter-terrorism measures.

Moreover, counter-terrorism training constitutes a priority for Azerbaijan. For this purpose, the Ministry of National Security established the International Anti-Terror Training Centre, which, *inter alia*, serves as a yet another tool for bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Establishment of this Centre will help Azerbaijan learn from foreign experience in combating international terrorism and create new opportunities to broaden international cooperation. The Centre will focus on education, training and academic research. Representatives of the corresponding bodies in both Azerbaijan and other states will participate in workshops, courses and other training

and educational activities on combating terrorism. The International Anti-Terror Training Centre is closely cooperating with NATO to develop its curriculum since the relevant NATO-affiliated educational and training centres have vast experience leading anti-terror courses with the support of a valuable network of experts.

Furthermore, Azerbaijan is interested in cooperating with NATO on cyber defence. The communication and information infrastructures of Azerbaijan require a reliable, secure and protected network in the face of unforeseen cyber threats. In this context, Azerbaijan is interested in the exchange of experience and training with NATO countries on cyber defence. As for NATO, engagement with partners on cyber defence is tailored and is conducted on a case-by-case basis upon a decision by the Allies.

/ SCIENCE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY PROGRAMME

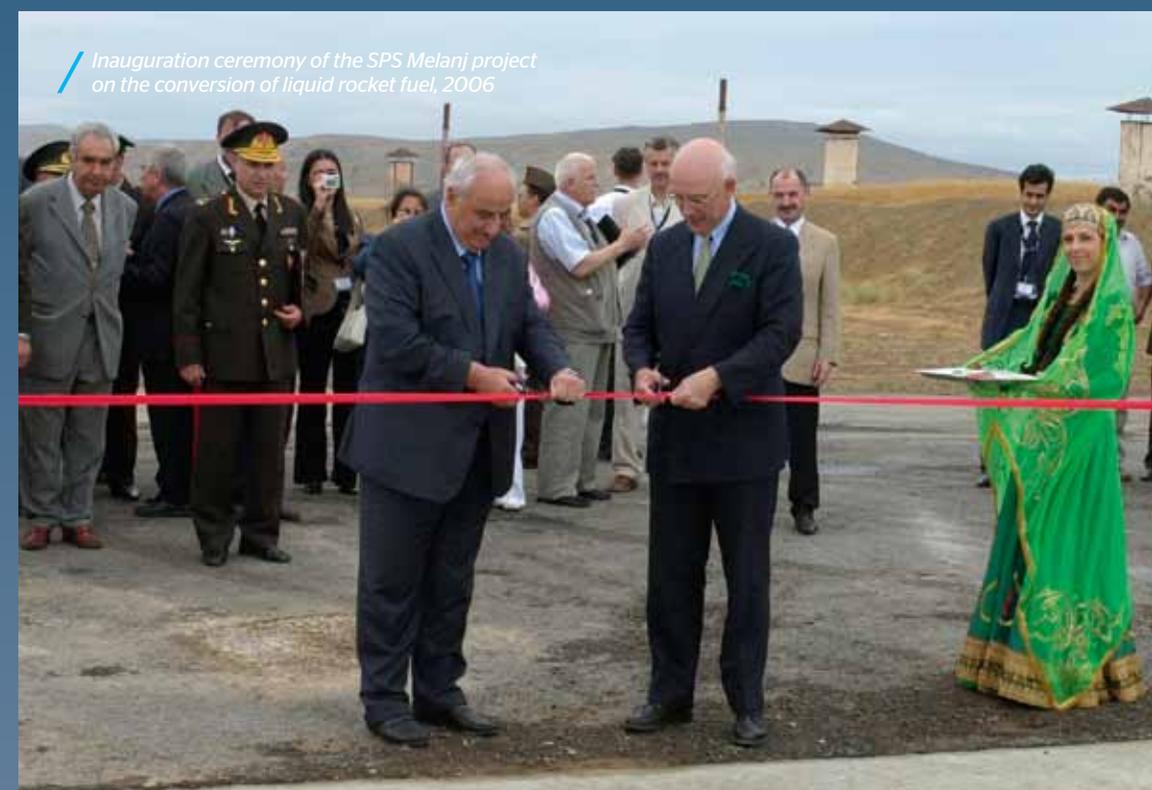
Fruitful cooperation in the framework of NATO's Science for Peace and Security Programme (SPS) is a noteworthy area of Azerbaijan-NATO cooperation. Azerbaijan began getting regularly involved in NATO's science activities as early as 1995.

The NATO SPS Programme enables close collaboration on issues of common interest to enhance the security of NATO and partner nations by facilitating international efforts to meet emerging security challenges, supporting NATO-led operation and missions, and advancing early warning and forecasting for the prevention of disasters and crises.

Azerbaijan is among the partner countries with the highest number of already implemented and ongoing projects under the NATO SPS Programme, in the areas of analysis of the Caspian Sea

ecosystem, protection of drinking water supplies vulnerable to eco-terrorism, management and sustainable development of urban water resources, dealing with the consequences of earthquakes, and assessment of the risks of seismicity along the oil and gas pipelines. At present, the leading areas for cooperation include energy and environmental security, and disaster forecasting and prevention. Below are some examples of ongoing and completed projects under the NATO SPS Programme.

Emerging Security Challenges: Enhancing energy security in the XXI century. In May 2013, a conference was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, to discuss enhancing energy security in the 21st century. The workshop was initiated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan's Diplomatic Academy, the State Department of the



Inauguration ceremony of the SPS Melanj project on the conversion of liquid rocket fuel, 2006

United States, and NATO's Emerging Security Challenges Division. The event brought together leading experts in the fields of cyber defence, counter-terrorism and infrastructure security to discuss the cross-cutting character of emerging risks to energy security, with a special focus on the Caspian region.

Seismic hazard and risk assessment for Southern Caucasus–Eastern Turkey energy corridors. The Southern Caucasus–Eastern Turkey energy corridors are formed by several critical pipelines carrying crude oil and natural gas from Azerbaijan, via Georgia, to Turkey and world markets. The objective of the project is to identify the segments of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Crude Oil Pipeline and the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum Natural Gas Pipeline that are vulnerable to earthquakes, and to provide mitigation strategies by performing a comprehensive seismic hazard and risk study for the pipelines.

These and other projects, short-term initiatives, numerous seminars and workshops, the so-called “Mélange” project for liquidation of rocket fuel propellant, and the PFP Trust Fund project on clearance and rehabilitation of the contaminated area near Saloglu village in the Agstafa district are just a few examples of successful cooperation between Azerbaijan and NATO in this field.

How to apply for NATO's financial support for a scientific project

Information on eligibility, as well as application and evaluation procedures for the SPS grants offered to scientists in NATO, Partner and Mediterranean Dialogue countries may be viewed on the website of NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme:
www.nato.int/science

/ COOPERATION ON CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING

Civil Emergency Planning (CEP) occupies a prominent place in Azerbaijan's cooperation with NATO. It is one of the practical fields of cooperation aimed at addressing challenges and risks both at a national level and in the Euro-Atlantic area and beyond.

CEP has a broad agenda to deal with. On one hand, it seeks to prevent, respond to and recover from natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, landslides. On the other, it plans for consequence management of man-made disasters, including the possible use of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) weapons and terrorist acts targeting populations and elements of critical infrastructure.

The primary responsibility for all this rests with national authorities. However, the scope and consequences of some disasters may transcend national borders or be so devastating that they naturally acquire an international dimension. Moreover, the humanitarian aspect of CEP makes it a very promising area for international cooperation.

In recent years, Azerbaijan has steadily been increasing its CEP cooperation with NATO. Multilateral interaction within the EAPC and bilateral cooperation in the IPAP framework are viewed as mutually reinforcing tools to this end.

For a clear understanding of the value of CEP cooperation with NATO, it is necessary to look at NATO's CEP tasks and structures that are open to partners. The aim of civil emergency planning in NATO is to collect, analyse and share information on national planning activity to ensure the most effective use of civil resources in emergency situations. Moreover, NATO

assists nations with expertise for building robust CEP capabilities. NATO CEP also enables Allies and Partner nations to assist each other in preparing for and dealing with the consequences of crises, disasters or conflicts.

NATO's civil emergency planning activities are conducted under the overall guidance of the Civil Emergency Planning Committee (CEPC) – formerly the Senior Civil Emergency Planning Committee (SCEPC) – which also regularly meets in EAPC format. Under the CEPC's direction, four technical Planning Groups bring together national government experts, industry experts and military representatives to coordinate planning in various areas of civil activity. These areas are: civil protection, transport (civil aviation, ocean shipping and inland surface transport), public health, food and water, industrial resources and communications.

There is a network of more than 380 civil experts located in NATO and Partner countries across the Euro-Atlantic area. Azerbaijani experts on transport, ecology and water management are represented in this network as well and are frequently invited by NATO to attend and contribute to the respective events. Civilian expert teams can be deployed to assist nations in dealing with a certain issue. The CEP tools available to partners such as the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC), the Advisory Support Team and the Rapid Reaction Team offer valuable opportunities for the development of Partners' emergency management capacities, also contribute to the Alliance's preparedness for such disasters and crises.

Azerbaijan actively contributes to CEPC and Planning Group meetings in EAPC



format. This format provides a useful forum for exchanging views, building mutual understanding and developing tools and guidelines relevant to national practice. Several of Azerbaijan's state ministries such as Emergency Situations, Communications and Information Technologies, Transport, Health, Economic Development, and Agriculture as well as national aviation and maritime authorities are actively involved in the respective Planning Groups. These representatives regularly take part in plenary meetings and contribute to the formulation and development of documents and working plans.

The EADRCC is an important partnership tool for NATO CEP. Created in the framework of the Partnership for Peace programme, the Centre coordinates NATO and Partner countries' responses to natural and man-made disasters in the Euro-Atlantic area. Moreover, the EADRCC administers the Civil Expertise Catalogue, which is a list of assets and capabilities declared by nations and available to NATO's structures in case of necessity. Representatives of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Azerbaijan have been serving in this Centre since 2009 as voluntary national contributions by Azerbaijan to NATO.

A more practical dimension for partners is the opportunity to participate in CEP-related exercises. In this context, Azerbaijan is interested in field exercises and tabletop exercises conducted under the auspices of the EADRCC. Azerbaijani teams participated in "UUSIMAA-2008",

"Jetisu-2009", "CODRII-2011" and "Georgia-NATO 2012", conducted in Finland, Kazakhstan, Moldova and Georgia respectively. These exercises enhance practical skills and provide an opportunity for live exchanges of experience.

Another tangible benefit for Azerbaijan is bilateral cooperation with NATO CEP. Priorities for bilateral interaction are focused on implementation of the objectives in Azerbaijan's IPAP. The establishment of the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) in 2005, which brought the relevant agencies under the authority of a single ministry, further enhanced bilateral cooperation.

In November 2008, the NATO CEP Advisory Support Team (AST) visited Azerbaijan to advise on capacity development in the MES. The recommendations developed in their report serve as guidance for assistance with areas of expertise, cooperation and concrete measures.

In conclusion, mindful of the constant risk of man-made and natural disasters, both NATO members and Partner nations are working together to further strengthen CEP capabilities and international assistance mechanisms. In this regard, Azerbaijan endeavours to bring its specific added value to NATO CEP. Dynamic cooperation with NATO CEP is mutually reinforcing since it strengthens the national capacity of Azerbaijan, which is willing to contribute to international assistance when and where needed.



/ JOINT AZERBAIJAN-NATO TRUST FUNDS

MÉLANGE PROJECT

Mélange is a highly toxic substance that was used by the former USSR's armed forces as one of the two components to propel small- and medium-range missiles. There were 1400 tons of dangerous rocket fuel inherited from the stocks of the former Soviet Union stored in aluminium tanks which had been gradually corroding, posing a serious threat to public health and the environment.

Azerbaijan requested NATO's assistance in destroying the mélange, and the NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme supported a project launched for this purpose. The budget of this project (€2.2 million) was fully covered by NATO.

The NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA) was designated as the project's executing agency, and for two years starting in 2006, a mobile mélange treatment plant set up in Azerbaijan neutralized 950 and 350 tons of mélange respectively in Alat (Garadagh district) and Mingachevir.

The Mélange project in Azerbaijan is the biggest project in NATO SPS Programme history. The project demonstrated the importance of the Programme, which proved its effective practical mechanisms with adapting priorities and cooperation tools.

NATO/PFP SALOGLU TRUST FUND PROJECT

The Soviet military ammunition warehouse in the Aghstafa district of Azerbaijan was the largest in the South Caucasus. In 1991, the warehouse was destroyed by the departing Soviet troops.

As the result of the explosion at the site, thousands of pieces of unexploded

ordnance (UXO) were scattered over an area of 4400 hectares, continuously posing a serious humanitarian, socio-economic and environmental threat to the local population. Since 1991, 152 accidents, killing 32 people, were reported.

At the request of Azerbaijan, a new PFP Trust Fund project aimed at addressing the UXO problem in Saloglu was inaugurated in December 2005. NAMSA was designated as the executing agency and the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) was chosen as the project contractor. The project aimed to locate and destroy all surface and immediate subsurface UXOs and explosive hazards in and around the former military base, and consequently to make the Saloglu site completely safe for the local population.

The project was implemented in three phases between 2005 and 2011. It was closed with ceremonies held in Baku and Saloglu in July 2011 and at a NATO Political and Partnerships Committee (PPC) meeting in October 2011. Under this six-year-long project a 5.7 km² area was cleared and more than 620,000 pieces of UXO were destroyed.

Turkey acted as the lead nation; in addition to its financial and in-kind contributions, Turkey has been instrumental in raising the required funds for the project. Other contributing nations and international organizations were Australia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland, the United States and UNDP.

Saloglu has been one of the biggest projects in terms of the number of the cleared and destroyed UXOs. This project has also been unique for the substantial financing by



the host nation and contributors including NATO nations, PFP countries, UNDP and NATO's global partners.

JEYRANCHEL NATO PARTNERSHIP TRUST FUND PROJECT

Given that a considerable portion of the national territory remains contaminated with mines and UXOs, ANAMA is determined to continue the mine clearance endeavour to make the country completely free from this perilous problem. To this end, it initiated the launch of a new Trust Fund project, which would be implemented in three phases, aimed at clearing mines and UXOs from 64 km². The first phase of the project (called the Jeyranchel Clearance Project, or JCP) covers 19 km² of totally contaminated land. Following Feasibility Study visits conducted from August 2010 to July 2011 and a subsequent desk study, a project proposal was developed in August 2011 and presented by the NATO Support Agency (NSPA) – formerly NAMSA – to the NATO PPC in EAPC format on October 4, 2011.

In March 2012 the NSPA and ANAMA signed an Outline Agreement for UXO and Minefield Clearance at Jeyranchel. In so doing, the procedural formalities were completed and clearance operations started. ANAMA organized a local opening in Jeyranchel, and a high-profile opening ceremony for the 28-month-long project was held in July 2012. The first phase of the project is expected to end in July 2014. Upon completion of the first phase, the project will be extended to other remaining affected territories (45 km²). The preparation works for the second phase have already started. The second phase was officially opened during the PPC meeting in NATO HQ on November 8, 2013.

The Azerbaijani Government contributed 50% of the €3,090,000 total project cost for the first phase. The USA has decided to act as the lead nation of the project. Along with Azerbaijan and the US, the UK, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Japan and Italy have also contributed to this project. Azerbaijan has confirmed funding of 50% of the second phase of this project as well.



Two UXO operators manually removing heavy ordnance, Saloglu TF project

RESIDENTS OF THE SALOGLU VILLAGE OF AGSTAFI

MEHMAN HAKHVERDIYEV

10-15 years ago it was too dangerous to enter the area round the warehouse in Saloglu. As result of the clearance operation of ANAMA, now we can use this area for farming and agriculture purposes.

YASHAR ISKANDAROV

In the past, people were killed or injured in the village almost every month. Due to the activities of ANAMA, death or injury cases related to the explosion of unexploded ordnance are no longer registered in our village. On behalf of all residents of the village I want to express my gratitude to ANAMA.

NIZAMI ALIYEV

After the explosion of the depot in 1991, the area became a killing machine. Many people from our and neighboring villages were killed and wounded.

ORUDGE NASIBOV

I am one of the people who suffered from the results of the explosion of unexploded ordnance in this village. My nephew who dismantled the GRAD rocket was tragically blown up. We want to express our appreciation to ANAMA for preventing and ending these incidents. Thanks to ANAMA, we don't receive bad news any more. Nowadays we can easily use the area near the warehouse for cultivation and harvesting as well as for grazing animals.

VAHID AHMADOV

The area became very dangerous after the explosion and large numbers of people suffered in this territory. I even couldn't pasture my cattle. Today, after clearance of the area by the deminers of ANAMA we have no problem with pasture and people do not suffer anymore.



/ PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

NAZRIN BAKHSHALIYEVA, MADIA 2015

“The opportunity to visit NATO headquarters helped us to get a deep insight into the functioning of the organization and to meet the specialists that work there. The careful organization and the time dedicated to the students left a strong impression and it was a really enriching experience for which we feel grateful.”

RUSTAM MAMMADOV, MADIA 2015

“Attending the briefings and listening to people who are actually in the system is much more rewarding than

any other form of study. I found this trip to be very informative and helpful for my future career.”

SEVINJ HUSEYNOVA, MADIA 2015

“Participation in briefing programmes helps the students to gain a broader view of the work of NATO, its structure and objectives through building dialogue, communication, and sharing opinions. I am confident that the sustainable continuity of this trend for the next generation of students will bear its fruitful results in the near future.”

ADA University has been increasingly active in promoting cooperation with NATO.

ADA regularly hosts NATO events and public lectures by NATO officials and experts. The NATO Secretary General delivered a speech at ADA as part of his visit to Azerbaijan on September 7, 2012.

Since 2011, an annual visit by ADA students to NATO HQ to participate in the briefing programmes of the Public Diplomacy Division helps students to have a better understanding of security issues.

“... I am delighted to be here, and I am particularly pleased to be here at the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy. Because this academy has become much more than a training institute for Azerbaijan’s diplomatic service. It is an important school of international affairs as also reflected in the Ambassador’s introduction. And it attracts high quality students from this country, from the region and beyond...”

A.F. Rasmussen
7 September 2014, Baku

Public Diplomacy is one of the key areas of cooperation between NATO and Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan attaches great importance to increasing public awareness of NATO-Azerbaijan cooperation and maintaining a high level of public support for its Euro-Atlantic integration course, which constitutes one of the strategic goals of its foreign and security policy.

...The cooperation between NATO and Azerbaijan successfully continues. In the future, we want to become an even closer and more reliable partner of NATO, and I am sure it will be so.

**President Ilham Aliyev,
15 January 2014, Brussels**

Since 2003, NATO and the Government of Azerbaijan have co-sponsored a summer school in Baku. The events have been developed and led to the establishment of the NATO International School in Azerbaijan (NISA) in 2005. NISA acts as a research and information centre on Euro-Atlantic issues, and organizes biannual week-long school sessions, conferences, courses, round-tables, study visits, essay contests and so forth. More than 800 local and international participants, including experts from 38 countries, have been part of the biannual sessions. The geography of NISA alumni varies from South-East Asia to North America, including NATO Member and Partner countries. NISA has proved itself to be an important venue and platform for constructive discussions and deliberations on topics of strategic importance for the Euro-Atlantic Partnership and NATO. NISA sessions, which are instrumental for the networking efforts of young experts, have stimulated further research and academic activities among them, thus significantly contributing to raising public awareness of

Euro-Atlantic and NATO-related security issues within Azerbaijan and in the broader Euro-Atlantic area.

"NISA played a very important role in my life and development. It created an international connection and bridge for me to the world, not only socially, but also politically and culturally. I learned things that I never had any idea about before."

NISA Afghan alumnus

"NISA allowed me to meet other young professionals in my area of study from around the world, and for that I will always be grateful. It has also facilitated some high-level connections for me! Most importantly NISA has greatly improved my understanding of NATO and PFP."

NISA US alumnus

The Euro-Atlantic Centre in Baku (2006) and the Ganja Euro-Atlantic and Information Centre (2008) are also important instruments in promoting Euro-Atlantic values and disseminating information about the NATO-Azerbaijan partnership in the country, particularly in the regions.

The Embassy of Romania in Azerbaijan, as a NATO Contact Point Embassy, disseminates information about the role and policies of the Alliance by organizing public events and visits by opinion formers from Azerbaijan to NATO Headquarters.

/ STUDENT OBSERVATIONS ON FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

Extracts from the winner essays submitted to the competition on the subject of the "Future of Azerbaijan and NATO relations" announced by the Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to NATO in February of 2014.

SULIDDIN BAGHIROV

3RD COURSE, FACULTY OF ACCOUNTING, AZERBAIJAN STATE UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS

"Taking into account the experience and facts of 20 years partnership with NATO, we can argue that the future of Azerbaijan-NATO relations will be based on the successful achievements and practices acquired so far. Unlike many other PFP Nations, Azerbaijan initiated and continued its partnership with NATO without the ambition of being the member of the Alliance. Therefore it is feasible to anticipate that this cooperation will be taken forward on the basis of the preceding experience such as being as close as possible to NATO and developing the relations to the possible highest level without the aspiration of becoming the member. The main areas of focus will likely be the defence and security sector reforms, operations and engagement in Afghanistan, civil emergency planning and consequence management issues, humanitarian projects, counter-terrorism, energy security, science for peace projects and certainly high level political dialogue".

TOGRUL NOVRUZLU

2ND COURSE, FACULTY OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, ADA UNIVERSITY

"To conclude, Azerbaijan has established its relations with NATO not many years after it reclaimed its independence. Different agreements have framed the cooperation between NATO and Azerbaijan. Yet, still, for the future, there are some other increasingly important sectors for further diversification of Azerbaijan-NATO relations. Cyber security is one of these dimension as the issue becomes increasingly relevant to the security of the world and Azerbaijan. Secondly, the energy security is another important area where Azerbaijan can explore the opportunities for further cooperation with NATO".

EMIN NECEFZADE

3RD COURSE, FACULTY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ECONOMY, BAKU STATE UNIVERSITY

"Analysis and observations show that the Azerbaijan-NATO cooperation will further develop in the coming years. During the recent visit of President Ilham Aliyev to Brussels, both Azerbaijan and NATO have demonstrated a great interest in deepening the relations between the two sides. In the future perspective, proceeding from the indivisibility of security, NATO's more active involvement in ensuring regional security and solution of the protracted regional conflicts is needed. It is very important for the country to maintain the strategic level of the Euro Atlantic integration in the light of influence of regional and global powers to the regional processes".

/ EXPERTS' VIEWS

AZERBAIJAN-NATO COOPERATION



Bakhtiyar Aslanbayli: *Lecturer at the Department of Diplomacy and Contemporary Integration Processes, Faculty of International Relations and Economy, Baku State University. Author of book "Codification of Embassy Law" (Baku, 1997); and Contributor to Ebook Volume 110: "Energy Security in wider Black Sea area - National and Allied approaches" (<http://ebooks.iospress.nl/publication/34735>).*

Over the past 20 years NATO has developed political framework for relationship with Partner countries. Good level of political dialogue, consultation and cooperation has been established. Different forms of partnership are being exercised. So, there were very fruitful 20 years.

Current partnership framework has proved to be efficient and productive. However, it needs to be "upgraded" to next level. New formats must be result oriented to stimulate long term cooperation. In order to develop those formats regional circumstances and geopolitical realities of each individual partner should be considered carefully.

For Azerbaijan the most significant ones are being part of Euro-Atlantic integration processes, having access to wide range of cooperation tools, as well as institutional and defence reforms.

From NATO perspective, Azerbaijan's active contribution to Euro-Atlantic security by supporting NATO-led peace-support operations and overall security cooperation could be viewed as the most significant ones.

Of course, achievements could have been even at a bigger scale. However, considering the complexity of the South Caucasus, Azerbaijan's unique geopolitical challenges and continuation of cooperation dialogue despite all challenges, we can appreciate NATO-Azerbaijan partnership as a success story.

I believe the existing partnership relations could be moved to the next level by closer cooperation in energy sector. NATO could be important in protection of energy resources and their transportation routes in the region. Increased level of NATO-Azerbaijan relations from cooperation within the PFP program to the execution of Individual Security (Partnership) Agreement would be in the mutual interest of the parties, as well as in the interest of energy consumers in Euro-Atlantic region.

Continuation of existing partnership dialogue and cooperation between NATO and Azerbaijan should remain as a priority. I believe both parties are much interested in deepening of practical cooperation. New format of cooperation tailored to individual needs would positively impact the future of NATO-Azerbaijan relations.

Azerbaijan's support to NATO led-operations is very significant element of cooperation with NATO. Contributions in Kosovo and on-going support in Afghanistan are very important for Azerbaijan in its desire to become an active and reliable partner for NATO. Those contributions would help in deepening relationship and exploring new formats of partnership between NATO and Azerbaijan.



Amanda Paul, *a British national, is a geopolitical and foreign policy analyst, journalist and blogger. Her main areas of expertise include Turkish foreign policy, Ukraine, the South Caucasus, Eastern Partnership and European Neighbourhood Policy, Russia, conflict resolution (Cyprus and the former Soviet space) and geopolitical issues in the Caspian region. Presently employed as a Policy Analyst and Programme Executive at the EPC, she is responsible for managing EPC projects related to Turkey, the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and the Eurasia region.*

At a meeting earlier this year between Azerbaijan's President, Ilham Aliyev and NATO Secretary General, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Rasmussen described Azerbaijan as a strategic partner and an extremely important part of NATO. This statement underlined the increasingly fruitful cooperation that Baku has with the alliance.

Despite the fact that Azerbaijan is located at very sensitive geopolitical crossroads, sandwiched between Russia, and Iran, the country has been very successful in balancing its foreign policy in a way that has allowed Baku to become an increasingly indispensable partner for the West, while at the same time not creating waves with Russia. This is something rather unique in this particularly volatile part of the world.

Azerbaijan's relationship with NATO, which dates back to 1992, is developing dynamically and today could be considered one of the Alliance's most successful partnerships. A member of NATO's Partnership for Peace Programme for twenty years, over the past two decades relations have deepened and widened as Azerbaijan has taken on more commitments, joining more of NATO's programmes and operations. Azerbaijan has consistently demonstrated its commitment to Euro-Atlantic security by committing troops and capabilities to NATO operations as well as aligning itself, including at the UN, with NATO members' voting positions including most recently related to Syria.

While Azerbaijan has been part of NATO operations in both Kosovo and Iraq, it has had a particularly significant role in NATO operations in Afghanistan, having a key role as part of the Northern Distribution Network for the transit of US and NATO supplies to and from Afghanistan via Azerbaijan. Tens of thousands of military personnel and some 30% of cargo for NATO troops has been transported via Azerbaijani airspace and territory. Moreover, Baku's decision to give some one million Euros to the Afghan National Army Trust Fund, as well as its commitment to train Afghan security services and its decision to further support Afghanistan following the withdrawal of troops in 2015, including related to state building, further demonstrates Azerbaijan's commitment to NATO and regional security issues.

As underlined by Rasmussen NATO highly appreciates Azerbaijan's "steadfast support" and is determined to further strengthen cooperation in a number of different fields including energy security, counter-terrorism including the proliferation of cyber terrorism and cooperation in emergencies. Hence we can sum up that this is a partnership based on common interests and goals in meeting global challenges and which seems set to go from strength to strength.

/ DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ Azerbaijan was among the first countries to sign the PfP Framework document in 1994.
- ▶ Azerbaijan was the first country in the region to sign a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) with NATO in 1996.
- ▶ Azerbaijan was among the first post-Soviet Republics that joined the Planning and Review Process in 1997. The Planning and Review Process is focused on achieving military interoperability with NATO troops through introduction of NATO's political/military, military, training and technical standards.
- ▶ The Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to NATO was established on 21 November 1997.
- ▶ Azerbaijan was among the first countries to express its intention to adhere to an Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP), which was the new PfP mechanism suggested to Partner nations by the Alliance at the NATO Prague Summit in 2002.
- ▶ Azerbaijan was one of the first countries to support and join the ISAF mission in 2002, and deployed first unit in Afghanistan in 2003.
- ▶ The first Secretary General of NATO to visit Azerbaijan was H.E. Mr Javier Solana.
- ▶ The first Individual Partnership Action Plan of Azerbaijan was presented to NATO in 2005.
- ▶ NATO's former Secretary General Lord George Robertson has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Baku State University.
- ▶ Azerbaijan is an associate member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.
- ▶ In 2007 Azerbaijan started its first Individual Partnership Action Plan with NATO, that defines the cornerstone of cooperation between Azerbaijan and NATO.
- ▶ Troops from Azerbaijan were part of the NATO-led operation in Kosovo from 1999 to 2008.

This Journal is compiled and published by the Mission of Azerbaijan to NATO as reference material on Azerbaijan-NATO cooperation. However, this journal does not necessarily reflect and may not represent the formal position of Azerbaijan and NATO on every issue or formulation.

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