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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, Anand Grover**

**Addendum**

**Mission to Azerbaijan: comments by the State on the report of the  
Special Rapporteur\***

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\* Reproduced as received.

## **Comments of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (16-23 May 2012), A/HRC/23/41/Add.1**

1. The expression in Para 4 of the Report “in a territorial armed conflict” should read “conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan” in accordance with relevant United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.
2. The right to the protection of physical and mental health of the citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan as well as foreigners residing in the country is reflected in the various legislative acts. The Constitution of Azerbaijan states that citizens have the right to the protection of their health and to receive health care services. The major objective as outlined in health legislation is to improve the health conditions of the population. The Law on Protection of the Health of the Population (1997) as well as the Concept on Health Financing Reforms and Introduction of Mandatory Health Insurance (2008) also stresses the importance of access to health care for every citizen. All citizens are entitled to receive health care, including medicosocial aid in case of sickness, disability and other cases according to the Law on the Protection of the Health of the Population. The Health Financing Concept reinforces the right of all citizens to a state-guaranteed basic benefit package. Recent reform initiatives have been focused more on the issues of quality of services and efficiency.
3. The Government of Azerbaijan has increased its budget for health significantly and per capita government expenditure on health has also risen substantially in recent years. As of 1 February 2008, the paid medical service has been cancelled for the welfare of population in the prophylactic treatment institutions financing by the state budget.
4. The Government of Azerbaijan attaches importance for establishment of mandatory health insurance, to this end the Law on Medical Insurance was adopted in 1999 and the State Agency on Mandatory Health Insurance was established by the Presidential Decree in 2007. Furthermore, the Concept on Health Financing Reforms and Introduction of Mandatory Health Insurance was approved in 2008. With regard to the implementation of the Law on Medical Insurance and in order to providing the implementation of mandatory medical insurance system, the Coordination Council consisting of senior officials of relevant ministries was established by the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers.
5. Pharmaceutical field is under specific control of the Government. The most important step in this direction is the establishment of Analytical Expertise Centre of Drugs within the Ministry of Health. All issues regarding the pharmaceuticals – development of pharmaceutical sector, registration of drugs, certification, and control of quality, wholesale and retail of drugs- have been assigned to the said entity.
6. A number of comprehensive National Programmes have been carried out on the fight against communicable diseases which is a priority field of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan. As a result of implementation of these programmes part of the communicable diseases were practically removed and others were dynamically decreased.
7. In order to ensure durability of these achievements the “Programme of Actions for immunization and prophylactics of communicable diseases” has been developed and adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
8. Azerbaijan – a country which is considered as an endemic for poliomyelitis now was turned to a country which is a free from this disease. In order to remain this status, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan constantly carries out prophylactic activities.

9. Taking into consideration the high level of suffering from the diseases such as manageable diseases which are not within the vaccination calendar, including epidemic parotitis and rubella, the negotiations were conducted with the Rostropovich-Vishnevskaya Fund. As a result of these negotiations vaccine with three components against measles, parotitis and rubella have been included to the prophylactic vaccination calendar instead of measles vaccine.

10. By joining the Programme of World Health Organization for the Elimination of measles and rubella in European region, constantly the Republic of Azerbaijan conducts National Immunisation Campaign among the population. Each year the vaccination plan for the Republic is being implemented approximately 96-98%.

11. Since the beginning of the 2012 the state has started purchase of the second line drugs against the tuberculosis. In this regard, necessary financial funds have been fixed from state budget for the year of 2013.

12. In order to define the percentage of new tuberculosis cases among patients who endure to a high amount of drugs, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan conducts joint research with the World Health Organization since October 2012. The results of this research will be available at the end of the first quarter of this year.

13. While the international organizations defined 1 million 3 hundred thousand Manats for the purchase of drugs and laboratory reactives, the State defined 5 million Manats just only for these purposes.

14. Since 2013 financial funds have been fixed from state budget for the purchase of the first line drugs against the tuberculosis in penitentiary sector.

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