

PRESS RELEASE

of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the results of 2025

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Introduction

During 2025, against the backdrop of increasing geopolitical tensions in the international relations system, shifts and uncertainties in the global security architecture, the Republic of Azerbaijan, relying on internal stability and sustainable development, successfully continued its independent and pragmatic foreign policy course, resolutely pursued by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, based on the norms and principles of international law.

To ensure the national interests of the Republic of Azerbaijan, our country, amid the evolving geopolitical environment, has strengthened its cooperation mechanisms in bilateral and multilateral relations by implementing prompt, responsible, and constructive diplomacy, significantly enhancing its standing and influence at the international level.

In 2025, which marked the fifth anniversary of our glorious victory and the restoration of territorial integrity and historical justice, and in view of emerged historic opportunities for sustainable and lasting peace in the region, the normalization of relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia based on the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity was one of the key priorities of Azerbaijan's regional policy.

The signing of a Joint Declaration by the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia, and by the President of the United States as a witness, the initialing of the draft "Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and Interstate Relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia" and other agreements reached during the Summit held in Washington on 8 August 2025 with the participation of the leaders of Azerbaijan, the United States, and Armenia, has paved the way for the new geopolitical realities in our region, and created favorable conditions for sustainable peace and development.

In the Washington Summit, an agreement on the "Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity" (TRIPP) project, which envisages ensuring unimpeded connectivity between the main part of the Republic of Azerbaijan and its Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, was also reached. Moreover, the closure of the OSCE Minsk Process and related structures was achieved, thereby completing an important stage in removing the Armenia–Azerbaijan conflict from the international agenda.

The Republic of Azerbaijan will remain committed to bilateral, direct, and principled dialogue to further advance the peace process in 2026. In this context, ensuring the signing and ratification of the already initialed peace agreement requires the full implementation of obligations, including the removal of the territorial claims against Azerbaijan that still exist in the Constitution of Armenia, as well as the provision of unimpeded connectivity within the framework of the TRIPP project.

In 2025, Azerbaijan made a positive contribution to the promotion of peace, security, and sustainable development worldwide and, in this context, carried out a diplomatic mediation mission between several countries based on relevant requests.

Throughout the year, our country continued its efforts in promoting multilateral cooperation, delivering prompt and effective responses to global challenges, providing international assistance, advancing international economic cooperation, and strengthening climate diplomacy.

In 2025, the Summit of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) was held, and the chairmanship passed to Azerbaijan. Our chairmanship of the Conference on Interaction and

Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), our Troika membership in the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and active engagement within the Movement at the national level have been successfully maintained. Within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), successful outcomes were achieved during the Summit held in Khankendi. Additionally, the ECO Week was held in our country, and the Clean Energy Center was established and became operational. Within the framework of the Developing Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) Week in Baku, an informal meeting of commissioners, a ministerial dialogue on climate and urban planning, the D-8 Media Forum, as well as the D-8 Youth Dialogue were held, and in line with the priorities reflected in the Organization's strategic documents, agreement was reached on the establishment of D-8 Energy and Climate Center, D-8 Transport Excellence Center, and D-8 Media Center in Azerbaijan.

These recent significant results achieved by Azerbaijan for regional peace, security, and prosperity were possible through decisive and far-sighted leadership, diplomacy, and strategic cooperation. Azerbaijan is recognized as a leading state in the region, a reliable partner in international relations, and an initiator of peace. This is a testament to the solid foundations of our statehood, our economic strength, and the unity of our nation.

Bilateral relations with foreign countries

In 2025, in the foreign policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, particular importance was attached to the development of relations with **neighboring countries**, with high-level visits to Azerbaijan being paid from Türkiye, Iran, and Georgia, and regular meetings were organized within the framework of intergovernmental and interagency mechanisms on economic cooperation with Türkiye, Iran, Russia, and Georgia. Intensive contacts with Türkiye, with which we have allied relations, continued. In 2025, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. İlham Aliyev, paid three working visits to the Republic of Türkiye, while the President of the Republic of Türkiye, H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, paid four working visits to the Republic of Azerbaijan. The President of Azerbaijan participated in the opening ceremony of the Iğdır–Nakhchivan Gas Pipeline on 5 March, the 4th Antalya Diplomacy Forum on 11–12 April, and the opening ceremony of the “Azerbaijan” quarter built after the earthquake in the city of Kahramanmaraş on 19 June. Efforts to further develop the strategic partnership between Azerbaijan and Georgia, based on historical, cultural, and economic ties, were also continued. The President of Georgia and the Minister of Foreign Affairs paid their first foreign visits to our country. Over the past year, overall tensions were observed in relations with Russia following the downing of an aircraft belonging to AZAL. Nevertheless, dialogue and mutual contacts between the two countries continued. The meeting between the Presidents of the two countries held on 9 October in Dushanbe on the margins of the meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the CIS, statements made by the Russian side, the acknowledgment that the aircraft was downed as a result of an error of the Russian armed forces, and the expression of an apology have been significant steps towards the normalization of relations. Relations with Iran were marked by intensive mutual visits, with the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran visiting our country in April and July, and the Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs paying a visit in December.

Meetings held within the framework of existing bilateral and multilateral **regional cooperation mechanisms** are a testament to the importance our country attaches to regional cooperation. In this context, the Trilateral Cooperation Summit, between the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Türkiye, and the Prime Minister of Pakistan, took place in the city of Lachin on 28 May. Moreover, a high-level meeting between the leaders of Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan took place in the city of Avaza on 22 August, and on 29

January, the second meeting of the Foreign Affairs, Economy, and Transport Ministers of Azerbaijan-Türkiye-Uzbekistan was held.

The development of historically friendly and brotherly relations with the **Central Asian** countries has been consistently, actively, and successfully pursued based on mutual trust and strategic partnership. The intensity of mutual visits has once again demonstrated the high level of relations and cooperation, as well as the special importance attached to the Central Asia region within the foreign policy of Azerbaijan. Throughout the year, a total of 14 mutual visits were paid by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Central Asian countries and by the Presidents and other high-level representatives of those countries to Azerbaijan. Overall, over the past three years, 14 visits of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Central Asian countries and 23 visits of the leaders of Central Asian countries to Azerbaijan took place.

Accession of the Republic of Azerbaijan as a full member of the Consultative Council of the Heads of State of Central Asia at the 7th Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Asia held in Uzbekistan on 15-16 November, the unification of our countries in a single geo-political and geo-economic space, and the transformation of cooperation in Central Asia from C5 to the C6 format, being an important diplomatic achievement, have paved the way for a new stage of mutual trust and strategic partnership. Throughout the year, meetings of the relevant intergovernmental commissions were held with Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan.

Political dialogue and cooperation between Azerbaijan and **European** countries have been developed based on mutual interests. During the reporting year, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, paid working visits to Switzerland, Albania, Hungary, Denmark, and Slovakia, and the First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva, paid an official visit to the Holy See. At the same time, the heads of state and government of Albania, Italy, Germany, and North Macedonia paid visits to Azerbaijan. During the year, the President held more than 20 meetings with heads of state and government of 16 European countries within the framework of international events and forums organized in Azerbaijan and abroad. Also, relevant meetings were held within the framework of the strategic dialogue with the United Kingdom, Latvia, and Hungary. On 13 October, the United Kingdom Minister for Europe, Stephen Doughty, and the Minister of State for International Development and Africa, Baroness Chapman, delivered statements in both Houses of Parliament, announcing the decision to elevate bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and the United Kingdom to the level of Strategic Partnership.

Efforts to expand existing relations with countries of the **Asia-Pacific region** were continued. Throughout the year, relations with the People's Republic of China and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam reached a new level. The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan paid a state and a working visit to the People's Republic of China. Within the framework of the state visit of the head of state on 22-24 April, a "Joint Statement on the Establishment of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the People's Republic of China" was signed. On 7 May, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam adopted a "Joint Statement on the Establishment of Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam." The traditional positive dynamics of relations with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan continued, and the Prime Minister of Pakistan paid one official and two working visits to Azerbaijan.

The year 2025 was significant for the development of relations and strengthening cooperation with countries of the **Middle East and Africa**. The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, paid three working visits to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and one working visit to Egypt. During the year, the heads of state of UAE, Somalia, Guinea-Bissau, and Rwanda, as well as the transitional President of Syria, paid official visits

to Azerbaijan. Meetings were held with the foreign ministers of 27 countries of the Middle East and Africa within the framework of official visits and a number of international platforms. During the visit of the President of the United Arab Emirates to our country in September, the “Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Relations” was signed. This year, the inaugural meeting of the Cooperation Committee on the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the UAE was also held.

On 11 April, on the margins of the Antalya Forum, the first meeting between the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, and the transitional President of the Syrian Arab Republic, Ahmad al-Sharaa, provided a new positive impetus to bilateral relations. In May, within the framework of a visit to Syria by a government mission led by the Deputy Prime Minister, the development of cooperation in areas of mutual interest was discussed. On 12 July, the first visit of the transitional President of the Syrian Arab Republic, Ahmad al-Sharaa, to Azerbaijan marked an important step in bilateral relations between the two countries. On 2 August, within the framework of a quadrilateral agreement between Azerbaijan, Türkiye, Syria, and Qatar, the official opening ceremony of the natural gas pipeline, which will ensure the transportation of Azerbaijani gas to Syria via Türkiye, was held. Thus, Syria became the 14th country to receive Azerbaijan’s exported gas. Overall, there is a broad potential for cooperation between Azerbaijan and Syria.

Our country’s diplomatic interactions regarding the situation in the Middle East and Gaza continued. Azerbaijan was represented at several high-level events related to developments in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict zone, where our position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was brought to attention. The invitation of President Ilham Aliyev by the Presidents of the United States and Egypt to the Sharm El-Sheikh Summit on Gaza is an indication of Azerbaijan’s recognition as an active global actor and of the international trust placed in Azerbaijan’s peace experience.

Efforts were undertaken to expand bilateral relations with countries of **North, Central, and South America**. Positive progress was achieved in Azerbaijan-United States relations. On 7–8 August, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, paid a visit to the United States. Within the framework of the visit, the Presidents of Azerbaijan and the United States signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of the United States of America on the establishment of a Strategic Working Group to prepare the Charter on Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the United States of America, aimed at elevating bilateral relations to the level of strategic partnership. According to the Memorandum of Understanding, a Strategic Working Group has been established between the two countries to prepare a Strategic Partnership Charter within 6 months, which will serve to strengthen the strategic partnership in areas of mutual interest. Within the framework of the Strategic Working Group, it is planned to prioritize areas such as regional connectivity, including energy, trade, and transit; economic investment, including artificial intelligence and digital infrastructure; as well as defense, security, and counterterrorism. To this end, bilateral contacts and meetings were held in various directions, mutual visits took place, and the first full-fledged meeting of the Working Group was organized on 19 December. The visit was also marked by the signing of an order by the U.S. President to waive the Amendment 907 to the Freedom Support Act within the framework of the meeting between the Presidents of the two countries. The waiver of Amendment 907, which is a negative legacy of the past in Azerbaijani-U.S. relations, by the US President, within the framework of the meeting with President Ilham Aliyev, carries an important symbolic meaning.

Positive development dynamics have been observed in bilateral relations with countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, and meetings of joint working groups on trade have been held with Brazil and Argentina.

During the year, Azerbaijan signed **191 documents with 41 countries** on a bilateral and multilateral basis. In the reporting year, **political consultations** were held with the

Foreign Ministries of 52 countries, and a Protocol and Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of a political consultation mechanism were signed between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of 3 countries.

As part of the measures to **expand the diplomatic representation** of the Republic of Azerbaijan abroad, the official opening of the Embassies of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Kingdom of Thailand and the Sultanate of Oman took place in 2025, and after a 13-year break, the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Syria resumed its activities in February of this year. A law was adopted on the establishment of the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Thus, the total number of diplomatic missions of the Republic of Azerbaijan abroad has reached 93 (70 embassies, 6 permanent representations, 9 consulates general, 7 embassy offices, and 1 representative office). Relevant procedures have been initiated for the establishment of the Embassies of Estonia and Somalia in Azerbaijan.

Cooperation within international organizations

In 2025, as in previous years, the Republic of Azerbaijan contributed to ensuring peace, security, and sustainable development globally and to promoting multilateral cooperation within the framework of international organizations.

Cooperation between **Azerbaijan and the United Nations (UN)** continued dynamically in line with changing realities and Azerbaijan's national needs. The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, participated in and addressed the 80th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) and held numerous meetings. On 24 October, the "Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2026-2030 between the United Nations and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan" was signed.

Azerbaijan attaches particular importance to strategic cooperation within the framework of **the Organization of Turkic States (OTS)**. The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, participated in the informal Summit of the Council of Heads of State of the OTS held in Budapest on 21 May, as well as in the 12th Summit held in Gabala on 7 October. At the Summit held under the theme "Regional Peace and Security," the chairmanship of the Organization was passed to Azerbaijan. Following the meeting, the Gabala Declaration was adopted by the heads of state and government. During the event, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan proposed holding, in 2026, a joint military exercise of the OTS member states in Azerbaijan, as well as events marking the 100th Anniversary of the 1926 Baku Turkological Congress and the adoption of the Latin alphabet at the congress. Among the documents adopted at the Summit were a number of practical decisions aimed at strengthening the institutional foundations of the Turkic world, improving cooperation mechanisms, and regulating budgetary directions. These include, in particular, the Decision on the establishment of the "OTS+" format and the Decision on the Development and Strengthening of the International Organization of Turkic Culture (TURKSOY).

Azerbaijan's Chairmanship of **the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA)**, the largest regional platform in Asia, which began in December 2024, was successfully continued throughout 2025 across all priority areas. In line with the strategic priorities identified under the slogan "Stronger CICA: Connectivity, Digitalization and Sustainable Development in Asia," the CICA Partnership Network of Leading Universities was launched, the Regulations of the CICA Women Council were approved, and the CICA Finance Summit was established. Azerbaijan successfully hosted the CICA Business Council and Business Forum, the CICA Youth Forum, and the 13th CICA Think Tank Forum. Within the framework of the high-level week of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly, an informal meeting of the CICA Council of Ministers was held under the chairmanship of Minister Jeyhun Bayramov.

Throughout 2025, as the Chair of the **29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, Azerbaijan actively participated in most international platforms on climate change, contributed to the relevant processes, and undertook measures to implement the decisions adopted within the framework of COP29 in Baku. Azerbaijan, as COP29 President, was closely involved in the process of organizing and preparing the agendas of mandated climate-related events held by the UNFCCC Secretariat, and a number of difficult-to-negotiate issues on key international platforms were resolved precisely through Azerbaijan's direct support and mediation. A delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, headed by the Speaker of the Milli Majlis, Mrs. Sahiba Gafarova, participated in COP30. On the official opening day of COP30, the COP Presidency was formally handed over from the Republic of Azerbaijan to Brazil. Our country was involved in the negotiations aimed at the adoption of the Conference's decisions, and following intensive discussions, a decision was adopted to grant Türkiye the hosting right for COP31. Moreover, in line with the Baku Finance Goal decision adopted within the framework of COP29, Azerbaijan and Brazil jointly prepared the "Baku to Belém Roadmap," which was presented within the framework of COP30.

In 2025, Azerbaijan continued to strengthen cooperation with the **Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** and its member states. In the framework of the 51st Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Istanbul, 21-22 June, a resolution titled "On the Right of Return of Azerbaijanis Forcefully and Systematically Expelled from the Territory of the Present-Day Armenia" was adopted, and a relevant provision on this issue was reflected in the Istanbul Declaration.

Within the framework of cooperation with the **Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)**, on the initiative of President Ilham Aliyev, the first-ever ECO Week was held in the Garabagh and East Zangezur economic regions. A Summit was organized in Khankendi, as well as thematic forums for women, youth, and business communities in Aghdam, Lachin, and Shusha. The Khankendi Communiqué reflecting the outcomes of the Summit was prepared, and the ECO Clean Energy Center in Azerbaijan was established and commenced its work.

Azerbaijan's activities as a member of the **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)** Chairmanship Troika and within the national delegation, including the NAM Parliamentary Network and the Youth Organization, continued successfully.

As a new member of the **Developing Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8)**, Azerbaijan implemented national initiatives within this platform. Within the framework of the D-8 Week held in Baku, informal meetings of commissioners, a ministerial dialogue on climate and urban development, the D-8 Media Forum, and the D-8 Youth Dialogue meeting were organized. Initiatives to establish the D-8 Energy and Climate Center, the D-8 Transport Excellence Center, and the D-8 Media Center in Azerbaijan were proposed and agreed upon.

Practical steps were taken to advance political dialogue and cooperation with the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**. In this context, a delegation of permanent representatives of NATO member states visited Azerbaijan in November. Meetings within the Azerbaijan+NATO format were held in Baku and at NATO Headquarters under the "Planning and Review Process – Assessment Document," the main practical mechanism ensuring our operational compatibility with the Alliance.

In 2025, cooperation between Azerbaijan and the **United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** continued, and Azerbaijan was elected as a member of several of its structures. Minister Bayramov participated and delivered a speech at the 43rd Session of UNESCO's General Conference held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. At the 43rd Session of the General Conference, the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Ashiq Alasgar (2026) and the 550th anniversary of Ashiq Dirili Gurban (2027) were included in UNESCO's anniversaries program for 2026-2027.

From 1 January to 30 June, our country served as the Chair-in-Office of the **Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)** under the motto “Strengthening Connectivity, Enhancing Development: Transport at the Core of BSEC’s Future,” ensuring the organization of relevant meetings and achieving tangible practical outcomes on the economic agenda.

A positive dynamic was observed in promoting dialogue and cooperation between Azerbaijan and the **European Union (EU)** based on mutual respect, equality, and shared benefit. Contacts were held within structured dialogue formats on security, energy, and transport, and discussions were conducted on the future directions of the relationship. On 25 April, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Kaja Kallas, visited Baku.

General agreement was reached on initiating negotiations on new Partnership Priorities and resuming talks on the new comprehensive Agreement. The work on the Financing Agreement of the EU Program of Action for the Republic of Azerbaijan “Support for mine action and sustainable development in the water and transport sectors in Azerbaijan” has been completed, and the Agreement is expected to be signed by the end of this year. One of the prospective directions of Azerbaijan-EU relations is the development of bilateral relations with EU member states in a strategic format. Currently, Azerbaijan is a strategic partner of 10 EU countries.

On 16 May in Tirana and 2 October in Copenhagen, President Ilham Aliyev of the Republic of Azerbaijan participated in the 6th and 7th Summit of the **European Political Community** and held meetings with the President of the European Council, António Costa, and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen. Moreover, in accordance with the agreement reached, the 12th Summit of the European Political Community is planned to be held in Azerbaijan in 2028.

Throughout the year, Azerbaijan continued its activities aimed at promoting relations with the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** in areas of mutual interest. President Ilham Aliyev’s participation in the SCO Summit held in Tianjin, China, on 31 August-1 September, once again demonstrated Azerbaijan’s exceptional role in promoting peace, stability, and development in the SCO region.

Azerbaijan participated in meetings of the **Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)** Heads of State Council, Council of Heads of Government, Council of Foreign Ministers, Economic Council, and other CIS bodies of which it is a member. In Lachin, the “Cultural Capital of the CIS,” international-level events were organized, and in Ganja, the “Sports Capital of the CIS,” as well as in six other cities of Azerbaijan, sports competitions were held from 28 September to 8 October.

Throughout the year, Azerbaijan fulfilled its international obligations by maintaining its commitment to relevant international documents and legal mechanisms aimed at **strengthening the non-proliferation regime of weapons of mass destruction and combating illicit arms trafficking**. Activities related to politico-military dialogue, confidence-building, and security measures were conducted within the framework of the OSCE.

Activities continued **to promote candidacies nominated by Azerbaijan** for elective positions in international organizations. Azerbaijan was elected to the Executive Council of the UN Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) (2025–2029), the UN Tourism Executive Council (2025–2029), the UN Committee on Migrant Workers (2026–2029), the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2025–2029), the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return or Restitution of Cultural Property to the Countries of Origin in Cases of Illicit Appropriation (2025–2029), the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (2025–2029), the UNESCO Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (2025–2029), the UN Commission on Population and Development (2026–2030), the UN

Commission for Social Development (2025–2029), and the Administrative Council and Postal Operations Council of the Universal Postal Union (2026–2029). Additionally, Azerbaijan was elected as Chair of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the UN Environment Program (2025–2027), Secretary-General of the International Civil Defense Organization (2025–2029), and Chair of the Bureau of the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport (COP10). Overall, in 2025, a complete success was ensured for each of the 14 candidacies submitted by our country to the elected bodies of international organizations.

Economic diplomacy

In 2025, comprehensive economic diplomacy activities contributed to strengthening Azerbaijan's position as a key transport, energy, digital, and trade hub, expanding partnerships, and further enhancing the country's influence in the regional and global economic arena.

A total of 31 meetings were held in the bilateral economic field through the **intergovernmental commissions and joint working groups** of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Within the framework of these mechanisms, existing projects in trade, investment, transport, energy, industry, and digital economy were reviewed, and new opportunities for cooperation were identified.

During the year, the First Azerbaijan International Investment Forum, the Azerbaijan Halal Business Forum, as well as a number of bilateral business forums and joint business council meetings were organized, taking practical steps to promote a favorable environment for foreign investment and facilitate Azerbaijani entrepreneurs' access to foreign markets.

The opening of the International Telecommunication Union Regional Acceleration Center in Azerbaijan for the first time in the South Caucasus and Central Asia region, during the World Telecommunication Development Conference held in Baku on 17-28 November, further strengthened our country's position as a leading regional platform in the field of digital connectivity, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Humanitarian diplomacy

Throughout the year, within the framework of Azerbaijan's humanitarian diplomacy activities, an international conference on **“Uniting efforts and enhancing cooperation for addressing the issue of missing persons”** was held on 9–11 October. Visits were organized to mass graves discovered in Ballıqaya village of the Aghdere district, the Shusha prison, and newly established settlements in the Jabrayil and Zangilan districts. The final statement of the conference praised the work of the annual Baku Dialogue on the issue of missing persons and called for the establishment of a mechanism to address disappearances during armed conflicts. In March, within the framework of the 69th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, a resolution titled “Release of Women and Children Taken Hostage, Including Those Subsequently Imprisoned, in Armed Conflicts,” proposed by Azerbaijan, was adopted.

During the year, efforts continued at the international level to raise awareness of the large-scale activities undertaken to **address the mine problem** faced by Azerbaijan, as well as to mobilize international assistance for humanitarian demining operations.

Azerbaijan actively engaged in diplomatic efforts in this regard, maintaining dialogue with international organizations, including the UN, OSCE, and NATO, as well as with individual countries. Azerbaijan was one of the main co-sponsors of the resolution “Impact of Anti-Personnel Mines on the Full Enjoyment of All Human Rights,” adopted during the high-level segment of the 58th session of the UN Human Rights Council on 24–26 February. As the first initiative on this topic in the history of the UNHRC, this resolution is of crucial

importance in promoting and ensuring the human rights of mine victims, as well as recognizing state responsibilities under international law regarding environmental and ecosystem damage caused by mines.

On 13–14 May, within the framework of the 134th session of the Council of Ministers of the **Council of Europe (CoE)** held in Luxembourg, the Action Plan of Azerbaijan for 2022–2025 and related projects were extended for 2026.

As a sign of the value placed on international cooperation in the field of human rights, a voluntary financial contribution was provided by Azerbaijan to support the work of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Azerbaijan participated in the second World Social Summit held in Doha on 4-6 November, and information was provided on the 13th session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13) to be held in Azerbaijan in 2026. Overall, necessary preparatory measures are being undertaken in connection with hosting the WUF13 session in 2026 and the organization of the Leaders' Summit for the first time within the framework of the Forum.

December 15 was declared “World Turkic Language Family Day” at the 43rd session of the UNESCO General Conference held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from 30 October to 13 November. Azerbaijan has actively promoted this initiative in line with its political and cultural line towards the protection, development, and international promotion of the Turkic language family.

International assistance

In 2025, Azerbaijan actively continued its assistance and humanitarian support activities on a global scale. Requests for assistance from foreign states and international organizations were considered, coordinated with other state bodies of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and the delivery of the relevant aid was arranged.

This year, in accordance with the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, within the framework of the “Heydar Aliyev International Educational Grant” program, established for citizens of the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Non-Aligned Movement and Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), as well as for citizens of countries where peoples and national minorities where we have ethnic, historical, and cultural kinship, for 2025/26 academic year, 100 foreign students from 51 countries were provided with the opportunity to study in our country.

On 9-22 June, 30 foreign diplomats from 27 countries completed an in-service training course called “Advanced Foreign Service Program for Foreign Diplomats.”

As part of the continuation of **humanitarian assistance from the Republic of Azerbaijan to Ukraine**, for the medical and socio-psychological rehabilitation of Ukrainian children affected by the war, more than 470 children received appropriate support in our country. Moreover, electrical equipment was sent to Ukraine to help restore the power supply during the winter period. The overhaul of the Irpen city polyclinic and the renovation of the children’s library in Kyiv have been completed. Overall, the volume of humanitarian aid, rehabilitation, and reconstruction assistance provided by the Republic of Azerbaijan to Ukraine as of today has amounted to about 75 million AZN (more than 44 million US dollars).

In 2025, 200 tons of humanitarian aid were sent **to Syria**, at the order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev.

To boost the socio-economic development of developing and least developed countries, the Republic of Azerbaijan has provided financial support on a bilateral basis to Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Syria, Djibouti and Kenya, Antigua and Barbuda, Tuvalu, Uganda, and Ethiopia. During the year, joint projects with Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) were launched, and financial resources were allocated to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), United Nations Central Emergency Fund (CERF), United Nations

Human Settlements Program, the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, and the Youth Policy Research Center. The Organization of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Independent Permanent Commission on Human Rights of the OIC, the Organization of Turkic States, as well as the Trust Fund of the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The financial volume of international assistance provided by our country during the year exceeded 50 million AZN.

Diplomatic efforts in the post-conflict period

At the initiative of the Azerbaijani side, efforts to normalize relations with Armenia on the basis of the principles of mutual sovereignty and territorial integrity, in line with national interests, were continued throughout 2025, and progress was achieved in the normalization process. On 8 August, the **Washington Peace Summit** held in Washington, D.C., hosted and attended by U.S. President Donald Trump, with the participation of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, Nikol Pashinyan, ensured that the normalization agenda advanced by the Republic of Azerbaijan was accepted by Armenia and the international community at large. Our country has succeeded in realizing, with determination and through purposeful and systematic action, the objectives it set forth from the very first stage of the process.

As a result of the Washington Summit, within the Joint Declaration signed by the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia, and by the President of the United States as a witness, both Azerbaijan and Armenia confirmed that the conflict between the two sides is now a matter of the past, and declared that conditions have been created for the establishment of neighborly relations between the two states based on the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force to acquire territory.

At the Washington Peace Summit, in the presence of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, and the U.S. President, the Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia have initialed the text of the “Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and Interstate Relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia.”

The Joint Declaration also emphasized the necessity of taking additional steps to achieve the final signing and ratification of the Agreement. In this context, the Azerbaijani side expects that amendments will be made to the Armenian Constitution to eliminate territorial claims against Azerbaijan, as a prerequisite for the signing of the Agreement.

Both countries' Foreign Ministers signed a joint appeal to the OSCE **on the termination of the OSCE Minsk Process and related structures**. On 1 September 2025, the OSCE Ministerial Council adopted the relevant decision, and on 1 December 2025, all organizational and technical measures related to the closure of the said structures were fully completed. As a result, the Minsk Process and related structures, which constituted a remnant of the former conflict, were conclusively abolished within the framework of international law, and one of the most important stages in removing the conflict issue from the international agenda was successfully completed.

One of the most significant outcomes of the Washington Peace Summit was the launch of the “**Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity**” (TRIPP). This multimodal route, encompassing railway and highway infrastructure, energy pipelines, and other communication lines, will ensure unhindered connectivity between the main territory of Azerbaijan and its Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, while simultaneously serving as an additional segment of the international transportation and transit corridor passing through the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Thus, the Republic of Azerbaijan, having put an end to the nearly 30-year-long military occupation of its territories, established a de facto peace with Armenia in 2025 in a

manner consistent with international law and principles of justice, through sustained and resolute efforts. The reality of Azerbaijan's restoration of sovereign control over its territory, and the fact that this reality is not subject to any revision, has been openly and unequivocally accepted by Armenia and the international community as a whole.

Proceeding from this, efforts **to promote dialogue and confidence-building** between the two states across various platforms have intensified. At the same time, the lifting of existing restrictions on cargo transit from Azerbaijan to Armenia, steps taken to deliver grain from Kazakhstan and Russia to Armenia via the territory of Azerbaijan and Georgia, as well as Armenia's purchase of Azerbaijani oil products, constitute positive confidence-building measures. Furthermore, the meetings between representatives and experts of Azerbaijani and Armenian think tanks in Azerbaijan and Armenia were organized.

The work of the State Commission on the **Delimitation of the State Border** between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia, as well as the Commission on Issues of State Border Delimitation and Border Security between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, was continued. On 16 January, the 11th meeting of the aforementioned Commissions was held on the Azerbaijani-Armenian border, followed by the 12th meeting held on 28 November in the city of Gabala, and a working meeting conducted via videoconference on 14 February.

As the initiator of the peace agenda, Azerbaijan will continue to pursue a purposeful and principled policy course in 2026, through bilateral direct dialogue, to bring the normalization process with Armenia to its logical conclusion. In this regard, the Azerbaijani side considers it essential to ensure the full and timely implementation of all agreements reached and all commitments undertaken.

In this context, to ensure the signing and ratification of the already initialed bilateral agreement, it is of particular importance that Armenia fully implements its obligations to eliminate the remaining territorial claims against Azerbaijan enshrined in its Constitution and to ensure unimpeded connectivity between the main part of Azerbaijan and the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic within the TRIPP project.

International legal measures against Armenia

Throughout 2025, efforts were continued to expose the crimes committed by Armenia in the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan that had remained under occupation for nearly 30 years and to establish Armenia's international legal responsibility for these acts.

Within the framework of the claim filed by the Republic of Azerbaijan against the Republic of Armenia regarding the application of the 1979 **Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats**, the principal statement of claim reflecting facts related to the large-scale environmental damage, destruction of biodiversity, and illegal exploitation of natural resources inflicted by Armenia in Azerbaijan's occupied territories was submitted on 12 February 2025 to the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague. In response to the objections raised by the Republic of Armenia to this statement of claim, Azerbaijan's position was submitted to the Permanent Court of Arbitration, and on 16 October, hearings commenced on the separation of proceedings concerning the preliminary objections to the principal claim.

Within the framework of the inter-state arbitration case initiated by the Republic of Azerbaijan against the Republic of Armenia under **the Energy Charter Treaty, Azerbaijan's objections to Armenia's request for bifurcation of the proceedings at the preliminary stage** with regard to Azerbaijan's principal statement of claim were submitted to the Permanent Court of Arbitration. On 13 February 2025, the Court adopted a decision on the request for bifurcation of the proceedings, and Armenia's preliminary objections, as well as Azerbaijan's responses to those objections, were submitted to the Court.

Within the framework of the ongoing inter-state proceedings between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia before the **International Court of Justice of United Nations concerning the interpretation and application of the 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination**, the parties officially submitted their Counter-Memorials in response to the Memorials to the Court on 12 November, thereby initiating the stage of comprehensive examination of the merits of the case.

Measures on the protection of the rights and freedoms of Azerbaijan's citizens

In accordance with national legislation, the protection of the rights and legitimate interests of citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the development of consular services provided to them remain among the priority issues.

Relevant work continued concerning individuals who migrated to the Republic of Türkiye from the 1990s onward and are believed to be citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan currently residing there, including their family members born in Türkiye. As part of these efforts, among other measures, 3,900 general civil passports were issued based on applications.

In accordance with the "Rules for the Repatriation and Rehabilitation of Minor Citizens in Difficult Living Conditions Abroad," approved by Decree 2336 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated 28 October 2023, the repatriation of Azerbaijani citizens continued throughout 2025. In recent years, including 2025, a total of 537 individuals were repatriated from the Republics of Iraq and Syria, including 473 children and 64 women.

As a result of the military conflict between the State of Israel and the Islamic Republic of Iran in June of this year, necessary measures were taken to ensure the safe overland passage of thousands of citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan and foreign countries from Iran to our country by land. Between 14.06.2025 and 07.07.2025, nearly 9 thousand citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan and 82 foreign citizens were evacuated to our country.

During the year, consular consultations were held between Azerbaijan and Slovakia, Venezuela, Cuba, Iran, Estonia, Oman, Montenegro, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Belarus, Poland, Iraq, and the United Arab Emirates.

In 2025, the "Consular Legalization" information system was launched to develop, simplify, and digitalize consular services. It is planned to take phased measures in 2026 to develop the system in 2026 and put it into use in most diplomatic missions of our country.

Communication of foreign policy and analytical work

In 2025, active work was carried out in the fields of public diplomacy, media and communication, as well as in conveying Azerbaijan's foreign policy positions and information to the public.

Throughout the year, interviews of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' leadership were published in local and international media outlets, 16 press conferences were held, and 485 releases were published on the Ministry's official website, including nearly 3,000 posts on official social media accounts. Diplomatic missions and consulates of Azerbaijan abroad organized events, conferences, seminars, and exhibitions on commemoration days and other significant national occasions. In total, 2,680 articles were published in the local media of the countries of accreditation, along with interviews and broadcasts.

In 2025, 506 foreign media representatives from 37 countries visited the Republic of Azerbaijan, including the territories liberated from occupation.

Analytical work by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued, with relevant information provided to the appropriate state bodies. Collaboration with reputable research centers and analysts was further developed, with joint projects and events organized. Throughout the

year, participation was ensured in global forums (Munich Security Conference, Antalya Diplomacy Forum, Bled Strategic Forum, Dubrovnik Forum, Astana International Forum, the forum dedicated to the 20th anniversary of Globsec, Warsaw Security Forum, IISS Manama Dialogue, Doha Forum, and Sir Bani Yas Forum). Meetings were held with international think tanks and researchers, including a conference in Austria on “Neutrality and Non-Alignment Policy,” a roundtable in Serbia titled “South Caucasus: Challenges and Opportunities for Cooperation,” energy-focused conferences at Spanish universities, and the 4th European Conference on Azerbaijani Studies.

Within the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ official publication, “World of Diplomacy” (“Diplomatiya Aləmi”), the conference in Baku and events in Shusha were held on 8–9 July. On 17 December, a roundtable event was organized to present the 61st special issue of “World of Diplomacy” magazine dedicated to COP29.

During the reporting year, registration was announced through an electronic system created for the recruitment of new candidates for the “Diplomacy Volunteers” under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Out of nearly 1,000 applicants, 95 candidates who met the membership requirements and performed well in interviews were admitted to the ranks of diplomacy volunteers. As of December, diplomacy volunteers began their practical training in 21 structural units of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Human Resources at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

During the year, appointments of heads of missions and deputy ambassadors were made at the relevant diplomatic missions of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Within the framework of cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ADA University, 61 young diplomats underwent training under the Azerbaijan Foreign Service Program (AFSP) to enhance the knowledge of newly recruited diplomatic staff.

The participation of MFA diplomats was also ensured in training programs organized by various foreign states in the fields of diplomacy, economics, governance, security, and other areas.