

## **Digital accessibility for persons with disabilities**

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**Dear Chairperson,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Republic of Azerbaijan ratified CRPD and its Protocol on October 2, 2008 and was among the first countries to endorse these documents and has submitted 3 reports on measures taken to implement its obligations under the CRPD.

The new Law "On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" prepared in line with CRPD was adopted in 2018. According to the law, the government has approved 17 new legislative acts, addressing a wide range of disability-related rights and encouraging the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society.

All notions considered offensive or carrying negative connotations with regard to persons with disabilities have been replaced by neutral words and expressions in national legislation.

As a result of a large-scale digitalization program in the social field, more than 140 social services have undergone an electronic transformation, 51 proactive services have been introduced since 2019 ensuring easy access to social services for persons with disabilities.

Social payments on disabilities are assigned proactively without any application or submitting any documents.

Launched in 2022, the "Labor and Employment" electronic system offers a unified labor relations platform for both businesses and employees and gives us a unique opportunity to receive all requests for reasonable accommodation and track their implementation.

Amendments were made to the legislation in order to create equal conditions and opportunities for the effective use of websites by persons with disabilities. According to the amendments basic principles of Web Content Accessibility Guideline were followed to enhance accessibility of state agencies' websites.

In addition, annual state monitoring is carried out to ensure the implementation of disability rights, including the accessibility of websites. For this purpose, a special working group was created and persons with disabilities, representatives of civil society, and experts were included in this working group.

A register of persons with disabilities was created for the purpose of establishing a single database on persons with disabilities and conducting country-wide disability data recording.

Each year government services are assessed via a special information system based on 155 criteria. 15 new criteria on disability have been included in the assessment criteria of the public services.

Excellencies,

The allegations of Armenia about the so-called “blockade” of the Lachin-Khankandi road are patently false and provocative. Azerbaijan has never created impediments for the freedom of movement on the road by the residents and its use for the supply of food, medicine and other humanitarian purposes, as well as for access by the International Committee of the Red Cross. This is supported by numerous documented evidence that expose Armenia’s fabrications.

Occupation of our territories was accompanied by large-scale indiscriminate planting of mines by Armenia. Around 3300 people became mine victims during the last thirty years. In the post-conflict period, since November 2020, more than 300 Azerbaijani civilians and military have been killed or gotten disability as a result of mine terrorism, as Armenia fails to share accurate and comprehensive information about the hundreds of thousands of landmines it indiscriminately laid on Azerbaijan’s territory.

Landmines hinder the process of reconstruction and the return of IDPs, so we see a direct link between the SDGs and demining efforts. Given the significance of this issue, Azerbaijan actively promotes the initiative of launching the 18th SDG on demining as well as the proposal to establish a Like-Minded Group of Mine-Affected Countries.

Finally, I would like to highlight that the Republic of Azerbaijan is working actively to create a fully accessible physical environment for persons with disabilities and strives to ensure their full inclusion in society.

**Thank you for your attention!**