

**BEYNƏLXALQAVRASİYA
MƏTBUATFONDU**

**BMT-nin İqtisadi və Sosial Şurasına
Əsas Məşvərətçi Statusla
üzv olan QHT**



**INTERNATIONAL EURASIA
PRESS FUND**

**NGO in General Consultative Status with the
Economic and Social Council of the
United Nations**

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Statement of continued support

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that our organization international Eurasia press fund reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labor, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Yours sincerely,

Umud Mirzayev

President of the International Eurasia Press Fund

The International Eurasia Press Fund (IEPF) is an international non-governmental organization established in 1992, in Baku, Azerbaijan. The organization had been registered with the logo "Peace at Home, Peace in the Country, Peace in the World" with the long term goal to promote the idea of peace; to spread objective firsthand information to the world, and to provide a framework for sustainable development in the countries. Moreover, the organization aimed to sustain and promote the principles and the work of the United Nations in Azerbaijan and strengthen the cooperation between the United Nations bodies with governmental and non-governmental institutions. Today, it is one of the successes and respected non-governmental organization with a great experience, with professional staff and technical capacity.

Since the starting of the establishment, the **International Eurasia Press Fund (IEPF)** has spread its geographical activity on Post-Soviet, Asian and European states.

It has been recalling the purposes and principles of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace and international understanding.

Presently, IEPF works in five key directions:

- Media & Civil Society Development
- Community Development
- Refugees/IDPs Issues
- Peace-making & Conflict Resolution
- Promoting of quality education

Major partners:

The IEPF has managed to create a good collaboration with various international and locally-based organizations such as UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, UNDPI, UNEP, IOM, European Commission, Delegation of the European Union, U.S. Department of State, World Bank, Japanese government, International Press Institute (IPI), International Peace Bureau (IPB), International Federation of Journalists, foreign diplomatic missions. From Government Sector: The State Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan for Affairs of Refugees and IDPs, Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan, Ministry of Youth and Sport, The Council on State Support to NGOs under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan Youth Foundation, Local ExComs.

IEPF is on the list of the organizations those carrying out their activities according to the Commission of Azerbaijan Republic on International Humanitarian aid.

Affiliation:

In 2007, the organization got a Special Consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC), which was reclassified to General status in the end of 2013.

The IEPF is a member of the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) and has representation on the boards of both, the International Peace Bureau (IPB) and the International Press Institute (IPI). Since 2007, the IEPF also has a membership in the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (PM/WRA).

Moreover, the IEPF has always been working on peace building and peace promotion. The IEPF also actively supports the activity of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Civil Peace Platform, established in 2016, the initiative of the citizens of Armenia and Azerbaijan, the civic institutions they represent, who want to contribute to the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Projects:

The International Eurasia Press Fund is successful in the settlement of refugees IDPs problems and studying migration, peace building issues and community development, and realizes projects in this regard. There for refugees, IDPs constitute approximately 40 percent of staff of organization. “IDP NEEDS ASSESMENT PROJECT” (UNDP 2019-2020)

“IDP needs assessment program” supported by UNDP and implemented in 12 regions of Azerbaijan in 2019 and 2020 was focused to identify main constrains and priorities of IDPs. Their living condition and opinion on conflict resolution was a part of focal point of focus group discussions implemented by IEPF and monitored by UNDP.

Since 2011 and until now, in cooperation with UNICEF, the IEPF works on implementation of the project titled “Azerbaijan Youth Advocacy Program” (AYAP). The main objective of the project is to support participation of adolescents and youth in decision-making affecting their lives and development and to coordinate the implementation of AYAP modeling in 21 districts of Azerbaijan. - The cooperation with UNICEF to improve the skills of young people, enhance their critical thinking and ability to compete. Youth leadership, pandemic behavior, learning new technologies, and participation in the internal affairs were encouraged. AYAP

In cooperation with international and local organizations, foreign diplomatic missions, IOM and various UN agencies, the IEPF successfully realized different humanitarian, social, and education and media projects aimed at sustainable community development. The projects mainly focused on empowering youth and women, strengthening local civil society organizations, provision of assistance and support to refugees and IDPs, in assisting the communities with job creation and their self- sustainability. Some of the recent projects that IEPF has implemented are:

The IEPF joined UN Global Compact in 2013 and it committed to its ten Principles. Since 1992, the time when the IEPF was established, the organization respect and support the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Human rights:

Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights

Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses

Since the time of establishment, the IEPF has always put as a priority to respect and protect human rights. We provide safe and healthy working conditions to all our employees, the number of which is close to 150. The representatives of different social and ethnic groups are employed by the IEPF. Moreover, since 2006, the IEPF supports an activity of the Baku International Students Club (BISC) which unites all international students who came to Azerbaijan for a purpose of study.

As a civil society organization, we support both national legislation and international agreements in the protection of rights of our employees without any type of discrimination or human rights violation. The IEPF always tries to make sure that the voices of all vulnerable groups are heard at the highest level. We give a special attention to the representatives of vulnerable groups, such as internally displaced persons (IDP), refugees, homeless and disabled people. To investigate and assess the socio-economic status of IDPs as a vulnerable group and to conduct group meetings to discuss their economic needs. These discussions were held

jointly with UNDP in 12 regions and cities of Azerbaijan. The final report was submitted to UNDP and relevant government agencies.

These groups are getting support with micro-credits, which are being provided by Eurasia Credit, a non-banking system, established by the IEPF. Furthermore, these people are able to attend the vocational trainings, such as carpet-weaving, advertising and design, farming and banking, computer courses organized by the IEPF. These trainings allow everyone, women, men and young people to get the necessary working skills for the future employment.

Labor:

Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and

Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation

The IEPF carries out activities to raise awareness on elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labor among the generations of future labor market, and also abolition of child labor and prevention of discrimination in employment. In its projects, the IEPF aims to protect socio-economic rights and effective integration of the most vulnerable parts of the population, such as women and youth from the IDP communities. Moreover, it is keen to support and empower the women who are staying behind by migrant husbands and/or who become victims of gender based violence. The IEPF also tries to teach these women about their labor rights in order to make sure that they are aware about their rights.

In March 2017, in cooperation with the U.S. Embassy in Baku, the IEPF implemented a project titled “Women, Community and Social Justice: Addressing Gender-Based Violence in Displaced Communities”. The objective of this project was to support the community-based activities for IDP youth and women in the regions and to strengthen the local civil society organizations. Moreover, the project aimed to inform women about their rights, to promote public discussion of gender equality and to take measures to prevent gender-based violence against women at work and at home.

As a result of the activities carried out during the projected period, the Women Recourse Center in Terter region of Azerbaijan was established and the hotline was activated. The aim of this center is to provide legal assistance to women.

Azerbaijan Youth Advocate Program (AYAP), the project that is being implementing by the IEPF and UNICEF in Azerbaijan, also includes awareness campaigns on prevention of child labor and all forms of forced and compulsory labor. The IEPF organizes a number of meetings and trainings with participation of the invited international and local experts that are being held in schools and youth communities in 21 regions of Azerbaijan (Shirvan, Kurdamir, Ujar, Agdash, Imishli, Fizuli, Khojavand, Aghdam, Barda, Goranboy, Ganja, Mingachevir, Lachin, Terter, Naftalan, Mingachevir, Ujar, Yevlakh, Goranboy, Beylagan) among the adolescents and youth between the ages of 14 and 18.

Environment:

Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

Among many other activities, the IEPF is committed to environment and ecology protection. The IEPF organized a number of campaigns like ***“Let’s keep beaches clean”*** with a goal to pick up some trash off the beach, and also to raise public awareness on environmental issues. As a result of these campaigns, the volunteers collected the tons of plastic and other types of trash. In the framework of the AYAP project that is being implemented with UNICEF office in Azerbaijan, and in cooperation with the U.S. Embassy in Azerbaijan, the IEPF also held a number of information sessions, trainings and campaigns like ***“Clean Terter”*** aimed to protect the environment in the war-affected regions of Azerbaijan and increase people’s sensitivity to the environmental pollution issues. The information about the waste pick-up activity was further spread in the social networks and TV channels to make the project widely available to public.

The IEPF has a broad experience of working with the UN Environmental Programme. The IEPF connected to the platform of the activities with the objectives of the Sustainable Development and in March 2013 became a member of the Major Group and Stakeholders Branch of the UNEP. The IEPF was one of the organizers of a three day “Training for media journalists on Climate Change” that was

Destined to heads and representatives of TV and radio channels operating in Baku and in the regions, as well as to journalism students. Its realization was supported by the Azerbaijan Press Council and UNESCO.

Land mines represent an immediate environmental health problem. By cooperating closely with Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA), the IEPF is also has its own Community Mine Action team that participate in the operations of single ammunition and clearance of mine in the frontline regions of Azerbaijan. Moreover, the experts of Community Mine Action Team hold trainings and explanatory work about the danger of mine and unexploded military supplies with the people from those places. On 4 April each year, the IEPF commemorated the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. In this day, the IEPF usually holds a session on discussion of the mine action work and risk as well as reaffirms its commitment to peace promotion policy and the world free from the conflicts.

The IEPF understands an importance of greater environmental responsibility. The information about ecological problems, disasters as well as about the action that is necessary to be conducted, is being widely spread in the international analytical information gateway Eurasia Diary, that is operating under the auspices of the IEPF since 2015. The website is available in five (5) languages, with a special section that covers all the issues related with the UN SDGs.

Anti-Corruption:

Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

The IEPF has been able to demonstrate its commitment to transparency in its work. While cooperating with a number of international organizations and UN agencies, the IEPF tries to fulfill all the requirements and international standards.

The president of IEPF himself participated in the anti-corruption commission meeting which was last year {2020} focus on the educational and enlightenment of corruption in the system the government and the social groups.

The International Eurasia Press Fund (IEPF) has long and outstanding experience in work with the International Press Institute (IPI). Since 2000s, when te IEPF became a member of the IPI family, the IEPF team and me personally, we have done a lot to support the IPI's activity. We established National Committees in Georgia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Many times we were reporting to IPI about the situation in Azerbaijan, even when there was no any official request. It is also pertinent to mention here that IEPF proud to release many journalists and human rights activists previously who were arrested for the unknown reasons but we played an active role to make them free.

Moreover, we continue our cooperation with ASAN service that is established by the government for more effective service provision for the population as well as for the prevention of any type of corruption.

IEPF has been functioning in Azerbaijan since 1992. IEPF works in 4 main activity directions of: Media and Civil Society development; Refugees and IDPs issues; Community development; and Peacemaking actions and Conflict Resolutions. IEPF is a member of several International networks and programs such as: US Department of State, Private Partnership Program; the International Press Institute (IPI); the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), the International Peace Bureau (IPB), the Northern Alliance for Sustainability (ANPED) etc. IEPF is having a General Consultative Status with the ECOSOC division of the United Nations since 2014.