



AZERBAIJAN

CANDIDATE COUNTRY
TO THE UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD
FOR 2021-2025

Azerbaijan is the active member of UNESCO

- Azerbaijan is one of the most active members of UNESCO supporting its noble mission in different parts of the world.
- **Azerbaijan** is one of the main partners of the Organization in the promotion of the intercultural dialogue.
- Azerbaijan is fully committed to the ideals and values of this Organization through continuous involvement at various levels.
- Azerbaijan has ratified major UNESCO Conventions.

- Azerbaijan has been regularly elected as a member of UNESCO governing bodies and committees.
- **Azerbaijan** successfully hosted important UNESCO events.
- The Framework Agreement on Cooperation between **Azerbaijan** and UNESCO was signed in 2013. On this basis Azerbaijan/UNESCO Trust Fund was created.
- Azerbaijan has been actively working with Member States in the spirit of partnership and cooperation.

UNESCO was one of the 1st international organizations the Republic of Azerbaijan joined after the restoration of its independence. On June 3, 1992, Azerbaijan was admitted to UNESCO as a Member State and since then Azerbaijan passed a remarkable path from being recipient country to becoming an important and reliable partner of the Organization.



Projects financed by Azerbaijan/UNESCO Trust Fund



Priorities of Azerbaijan at UNESCO:

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- **■** Education & Gender Equality;

■ Intercultural dialogue;

■ Climate change & Biodiversity;

■ Priority Africa;

■ Response to COVID-19 pandemic

■ Protection of Cultural Heritage & Creativity;

■ Multilateralism. Non-Aligned Movement

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Committed to the implementation of SDGs Azerbaijan is ready to tirelessly work with all:
 - to foster the role of education to prevent violent extremism & radicalization;
 - to ensure inclusive & quality education;
 - to promote lifelong learning demands.

- Strengthening the UNESCO's contribution towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda Azerbaijan is ready to support:
 - cross-sector approaches & integrated action aiming to address the needs of developing countries & LDCs, especially in the context of COVID-19 pandemic & post-pandemic period.

Intercultural dialogue

- Azerbaijan attaches the great importance to the promotion of a culture of peace, paying particular attention to encouraging intercultural and interreligious dialogue at the national and international levels.
- The Secretary-General of UN emphasized the important role of **The Baku Process** in advocating for dialogue among cultures in his report to the General Assembly at its 72th session.

- Baku Process, launched in 2008 by the initiative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan has become a globally recognized platform for promotion of intercultural dialogue.
- Azerbaijan successfully hosted 5 editions of Baku World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue.

Priority Africa

Mindful of the results of the evaluation of the UNESCO Operational Strategy for Priority Africa, Azerbaijan is as always at the frontline to mobilize UNESCO's programmatic, technical and financial resources for supporting African Member States in addressing the challenges related to their sustainable development.

If elected **Azerbaijan** will support & continue to promote:

- The African region as a priority region for UNESCO activities;
- The development of a new operational framework for the UNESCO's action in Africa for 2022-2029;
- Strengthening the UNESCO's action for the global priority Africa with a view to reinforce the contribution of Organization to the Africa Union's 2063 Agenda.

Protection of Cultural Heritage & Creativity

Situated at the heart of historical Silk Road and intersection of East and West, North and South, Azerbaijan is considered to be a melting pot of different cultures and religions.

Azerbaijan financed the publication of a "Military Manual on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflicts" with the brief explanation of importance of preservation and protection of such property under international law, namely the 1954 Hague Convention and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols.

Azerbaijan is on the forefront of the initiatives aimed at establishing better instrumental mechanisms for the implementation of all Cultural Conventions of UNESCO.

It does & will continue its active involvement in the work of Committees, share its institutional memory and experience with other Members and work in the spirit of partnership and cooperation.

Education & Gender Equality

Several projects on girls' education were financed by Azerbaijan/UNESCO Trust Fund

- "Health Literacy and Behavior Change practices among Adolescent Girls" project in Kenya;
- "Empowering girls from Pastoralists" project in Tanzania;

- "Promoting gender equity and equality in education" project in **Uganda**;
- "UNESCO Capacity Development for Education for All Programme" project in Liberia;

Being the Champion in women rights, Azerbaijan commends the #GenderEquality & #Education initiatives and is ready to collaborate and to provide its contribution in this regard.

Climate change & biodiversity

As a former member of MAB Programme & World Heritage Committee

Azerbaijan stands ready:

- to support the protection of the natural heritage, building resilience to climate change, halting biodiversity & natural resources loss, tackling its key drivers through research & cooperation.

Azerbaijan is ready:

- to reinforce the UNESCO's response to the challenges of biodiversity, conservation & sustainable natural resource management;
- -to support efforts to mobilize the potential of designated sites, local & indigenous knowledge systems for sustainable & equitable use of natural resources.

Response to COVID-19 pandemic

- The Government of Azerbaijan contributed to global efforts to address COVID-19, and has pledged US\$ 10 million to WHO's Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan. This plan outlines the activities and resources needed by international health organizations globally, including WHO, to implement priority public health measures in support of countries to prepare for and respond to COVID-19.
- In May 2020, **Azerbaijan** expressed its intention to join **the Global Education Coalition**, supporting countries in their efforts to mitigate the impact of school closures because of COVID-19, particularly for more vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, and to facilitate the continuity of education for all through remote learning.

The COVID-19 outbreak affects all segments of the population and is particularly detrimental to members of those social groups in the most vulnerable situations, continues to affect populations, including people living in poverty situations, older persons, persons with disabilities, youth, and indigenous peoples.

The pandemic demonstrated that no country is ready for such critical situation and no country can cope with it alone.

Multilateralism. Non-Aligned Movement

Azerbaijan offers **Scholarships** for the members of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). The Scholarships provide an opportunity for the selected candidates on annual basis to study in the leading universities of Azerbaijan at the preparatory courses, undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, general medicine/residency programmes.

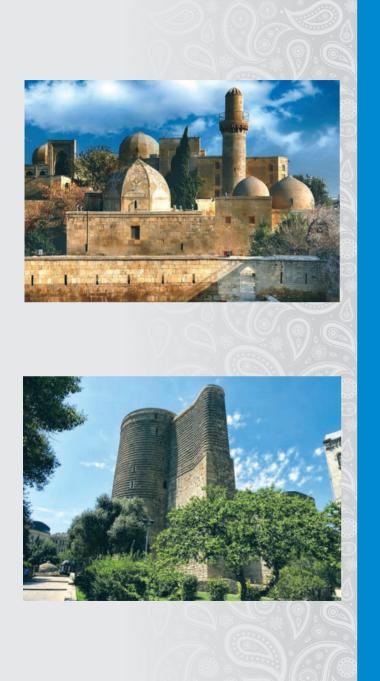
- The Republic of Azerbaijan became a fullfledged member of the NAM in May 2011 and declared its strict adherence to the founding principles of the Movement.
- Azerbaijan took over the chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement at the Baku Summit of the Movement that was held on 25-26 October 2019.
- Azerbaijan assumed the chairmanship of the Movement in a critical time for all Member States of the NAM, which necessitates concerted and effective responses to the challenges of contemporary world.
- Based upon the initiative of Azerbaijan as incumbent chair of NAM, UN General Assembly Special Session on COVID-19 was held on 3-4 December 2020.

If elected **Azerbaijan**, as a Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, will contribute to the strengthening of the unity within Movement, continue consolidating NAM's voice and make sure that it will be well heard.

Now let's know **Azerbaijan** better!

Crossroad of civilizations





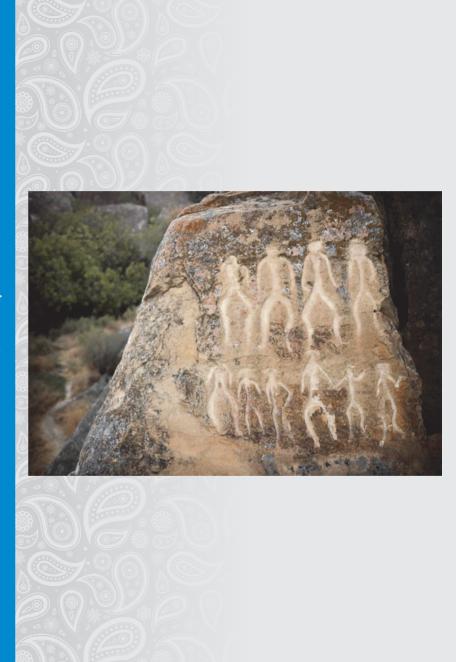
Icherisheher (Walled city) of Baku was inscribed on the UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2000.

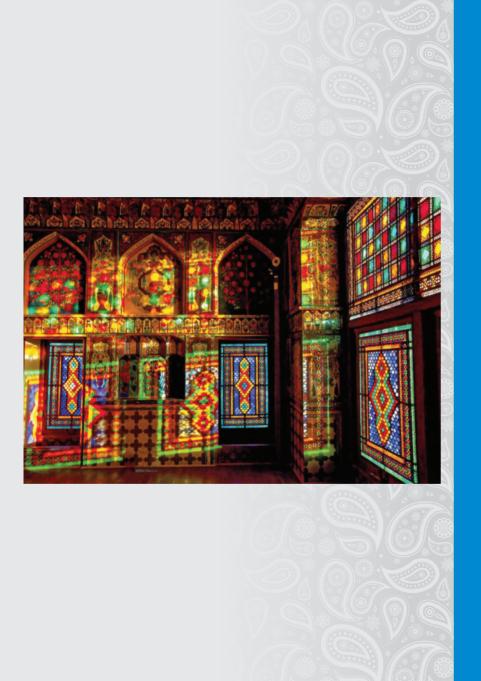
Built on a site inhabited since the Palaeolithic period, the Walled City of Baku reveals evidence of Zoroastrian, Sasanian, Arabic, Persian, Shirvani, Ottoman, and Russian presence in cultural continuity. The Walled City (Icherisheher) has preserved much of its 12th-century defensive walls. The 12th-century Maiden Tower (Giz Galasy) was built over earlier structures dating from the 7th to 6th centuries BC, and the 15th-century Shirvanshahs' Palace is one of the pearls of Azerbaijan's architecture.

Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape...

covers an outstanding collection of more than 6,000 rock engravings bearing testimony to 40,000 years of rock art.

The site, featuring the remains of inhabited caves, settlements & burials, all reflecting an intensive human use by the inhabitants of the area during the wet period that followed the last Ice Age, from the Upper Paleolithic to the Middle Ages, was inscribed on the UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2007.





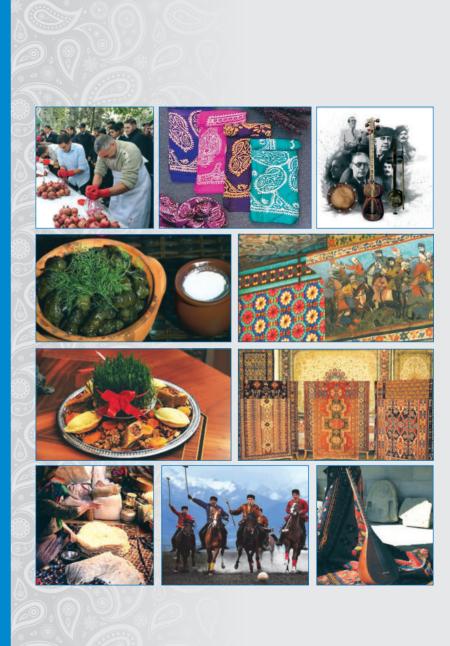
Sheki is one of the oldest cities in the Caucasus region...

...believed to date back to the late Bronze Age, circa 700 BC.

Its Historic Center with the Khan's Palace was inscribed on the UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2019.

15 elements of Azerbaijan were inscribed to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

- Pomegranate festivity
- Art of miniature
- Yalli, group dances
- Dede Qorqud, folk tales
- Dolma making
- Kamancha, musical instrument
- Novruz, festivity
- Flatbread making
- Copper craftsmanship
- Kelaghayi, silk scarves
- Chovgan, Karabakh horse-ride game
- Tar, musical instrument
- Carpet weaving
- Art of Azerbaijani Ashiq
- Azerbaijani Mugham



Azerbaijani cities in the UNESCO's Creative Cities Network

Baku is a Creative City of Design

Being for decades the center of creativity in the region, now Baku is a center of innovative projects and start-ups in the field of design Baku is a city of history & future at the same time.

Sheki is a Creative City of Crafts and Folk Art

Being a multi-ethnic city with well-preserved architectural monuments that are closely related to the development of traditional crafts, such as shebeke (wooden-framed stained glass) and pottery, Sheki was one of the strongholds of Azerbaijani segment of the ancient Silk Roads.





We believe that UNESCO as a laboratory of ideas should be genuinely multilateral environment where all Member States can stand together for the preservation of our common heritage, respect for diversity and promotion of the culture of peace. Azerbaijan







Republic of Azerbaijan

National Commission

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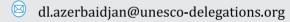
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