

National Action Plan for Promotion of Open Government 2020-2022

Reforms in the country aimed at improvement of governance mechanisms and the quality of public services, increase of transparency and accountability, as well as strengthening public control and fostering public participation are being successfully continued.

Significant measures have been taken in the framework of the finalized “National Action Plan for Promotion of Open Government 2016-2018” with regard to expanding the use of modern information and communication technologies in the rendering of public services, electronification of services provided by state agencies, strengthening the role of civil society institutions in the social life, ensuring financial transparency and prevention of corruption.

Measures, continuously implemented in social-economic and administrative spheres, including measures to improve the business environment in the country, facilitate property registration, e-procurement, access to loans, simplification of tax and customs administration, and increasing government support for businesses have been highly evaluated by prominent international organizations and the last year Republic of Azerbaijan was included in the list of the 20 most reformist countries in the world.

The use of modern information and communication technologies and the implementation of innovative solutions in the rendering of public services has been one of the priorities of state policy, and important measures have been taken to ensure sustainable development in this area. Thus, the e-Government portal, which has integrated 42 government agencies, now provides more than 450 electronic services. Currently, the portal has more than one million users, and people requesting various public services use the portal approximately 2.5 million times a month.

The transition to a new e-procurement model was implemented in 2019. The newly created single public internet portal ensures procurement competitions in a transparent and fair environment. Announcements of e-purchases are made through the system, bids are submitted electronically, virtual bidding sessions are held, results are determined automatically, contracts and payments are made online. All e-procurement procedures and information exchange are done electronically through the single internet portal. In 2019, 6,291 contracts were signed as a result of e-procurement procedures through this public procurement portal.

Considering the progress made in the sphere of the introduction of electronic public services, the use of modern information and communication technologies and innovative methods, Azerbaijan was awarded with a special UN award for the development of public services through the use of digital governance within the United Nations Public Service Forum, held on June 24, 2019 in Baku.

The systematic measures taken to combat corruption and increase transparency, alongside with improving the business environment and social well-being, have been positively appreciated by the international organizations specializing in this area, and Azerbaijan's position has grown considerably.

Open Government Initiative Government – Civil Society Dialogue Platform which was established as the mechanism for the coordination of the efforts of state bodies and civil society institutions in the application of principles of open government has been successful over the past year, wide range of topics in various areas of public life were discussed and important decisions were made through it. The National Action

Plan for Promotion of Open Government for the years 2020-2022 is the result of productive discussions on this platform.

The National Action Plan for Promotion of Open Government 2020-2022 is an integral part of the reforms aimed at further improvement of implementation of the principles of openness, transparency and accountability in Azerbaijan. The measures envisaged in the National Action Plan will be a significant contribution for achieving greater progress in the areas of improvement and digitalization of public services, prevention of corruption, strengthening the civilian oversight, expanding the public participation, increasing financial transparency and ensuring access to information.