

**Speech of Minister of Labor and Social Protection of Population of Republic of Azerbaijan
Mr. A.T. Nagiyev in International Conference
on aging of population
(11 - 13 September 2002, Berlin)**

***Dear Mister Chairman!
Ladies and Gentlemen!***

First of all let me express my thankfulness to organizers for these excellent conditions created for work of Berlin Conference.

Not so many times passed from Madrid meeting that gave new impulse for political solutions related to the problems of aging of population. During this short period of time we more clearly understood the role of international community, governments and civil community as a responsible for taking these solutions. I have to underline that the results of Madrid meeting were widely discussed among public of the country. That was the reason of re-appreciating of importance and competitiveness of this Forum and also national efforts in sphere of social protection of old-aged people. Goals of Berlin Conference and introduced speeches underline the necessity of taking measures according to realization of Program of Actions.

This meeting allows us coordinate efforts in international level on developing of regional aspects of improvement of living conditions of old-aged people. I think that Azerbaijan Republic as many countries delegating in this Conference has an opportunity to improve partnership in realization of aims of International Plan of Actions. It has to be added also that introduced information and experience of countries permits us to concretize national efforts on solving problems of aging of population in regional level.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

According to the specifics of socio-economic development of Azerbaijan Republic and based on recommendations of Plan of Actions Government of a country in improving rights of old-aged population in following directions:

- reforming the system of pension provision and creation of targeting mechanism of social assistance to old-aged people
- creation of necessary conditions and development of initiatives promoting work for old-aged people and development of self-employment of this contingent
- improvement of measures on developing and access to social infrastructure of old-aged in rural regions of the country
- development of network of social assistance in regions of the country and measures stimulating integration of old-aged into the community
- reduction of poverty among old-aged people.

Among these directions special attention is paid to socially vulnerable groups of population, such as disabled, women, refugees and compulsory migrants.

As You know the essential aim of International Plan of Action is taking measures according to protection and assistance of old-aged people in case of military conflicts and foreign occupation.

International experts and analytics of all levels mention that difficult problems of development of Azerbaijan in conditions of transition period economy are repeatedly aggravated in accordance with military aggression of neighbor Armenia occupied 20% of Azerbaijan lands and as a result existence of millions of refugees and compulsory migrants. That is why all problems of social development of Azerbaijan have to be considered through prism of national catastrophe of the country where every 8th citizen is a refugee or compulsory migrant. This is aggravating also by the reason that 30% of them are old-aged people 70% from which are women. In spite of taken by Government measures the status of these old-aged people related with food, medicine and social adaptation is still extremely difficult.

Taking the opportunity I would like to ask European Economic Commission of UN, participating in this Conference representatives of international institutes, donors and civil community in providing humanitarian assistance and revival of rights of old-aged people of a country.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is necessary to underline that decisions made at Madrid meeting and problems discussed in Berlin Conference have not only political but also moral character.

Further development and realization of rights of old-aged people, development of life quality in great extent depends on implementing policy in which we cooperate with You. In this policy together with aforementioned directions, from my point of view, the attention has to be concentrated on measures according to consolidation and development of succession of generations. New generations of youth connected with old-aged people not only by time they living. Quick socio-economic changes bring to communities new initiatives related with training of youth to implementation of their aims and forming ideology according to old-aged people.

We are aware that Government is main body responsible for realization of International Plan of Actions. In order to reach further progress political adherence, creation of more effective institutes, elaboration of more active national policy and strategies. It is also important to improve consolidation of governmental structures with non-governmental organizations in solving aforementioned problems.

Increased life standards of old-aged people need also for political efforts for mobilizing and using existing resources. Government of Republic of Azerbaijan develops policy implementation based on strength positions directed to development effectiveness of the system of social provision, employment, medical care, support in social integration of old-aged people.

At the same time provision of social fairness and stable economic and social development – it is common goal corresponding to all international community.

I think that more developed countries have to again recognize the essence of their support in improvement of less developed regions. Partnership in sphere of social protection, trade, investments and political stabilization will have positive impact on developed countries as well as developing countries. Creation of potential of countries in plan of constructive relations will accelerate reaching goals of International Plan of Actions and will provide fluent transition from support to cooperation.

Taking into account adherence of international financial institutes to programs of UN, I think that these structures could adjust their efforts in financial support to government with transition economies in realization of policy developments and projects according to the problems of aging.

In conclusion of my speech I would like to wish all participants of this meeting success and I express my confidence that Berlin Conference will justify hopes of millions of old-aged people all around the world and will be one of the main abutment on realization of International Plan of Actions.

Thank You for attention!