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NOTE ON THE SITUATION OF ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH INDICATORS IN AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC

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Summary: The final goal of environment protection is to improve of quality of living surroundings in nature and certainly, at first for human-beings. Because of it, surveys aimed to make relations (preferably correlation type) between environment indicators and health indicators have a principal importance. But it is clear that indicators of health and environment may be methodologically studied separately on the first stages of surveys. Selection of separate groups of indicators on environment and health must be carried out taking into consideration the need of study of environment influence on people's health and quantitative evaluation of these influences.

The Azerbaijan Republic is one of the transition countries established after collapse of East European Socialist System, includes all properties of nature-protection systems and approaches being in former socialist countries. According to this the comparative analyse of relative indicators of environment and health in Azerbaijan and in whole in European Region, our country is a member in may be very interesting. It should be taken into consideration that improving of environment indicators often may be related to reorganisation of all industry fields and it reflects usually by closing of a row of productions having a danger for ecology situation at the evaluation of efficiency of ecology policy in the former socialist and sovereign countries. The other factor in ecology is to form of civil society on the territory of the former Soviet Union. It certainly will reflect increasing of ecology culture of population.

Ecology problems, protection and rational using of water resources are fields of interest of state bodies, public organizations.

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The following table demonstrates the measure of using of water resources and levels of influence onto environment:

	1990	1995	2000
Waste pollution to atmosphere, thds.tons:			
- stationary sources	2 109	879	515
- transport	738	447	393
Extracted water volume	16 176	13 971	11 110
Using of water sources, mln.c.m	12 477	10 223	6 588
Soiled water thrown into superficial objects mln.c.m.	5 026	4 247	4 106
Formation of toxic waste thds.tons	...	27.0	26.6

At present the work on evaluation of every enterprises' influence on environment is carrying by nature protection bodies. In 2000 185 000 \$ were received, and this value more on 2 % than the same indicator in 1999. 34% of payments of the total sum is enterprises' payments for environment pollution in accordance with the accepted norms. The enterprises' payments for over-limit pollution of the environment is 15% of the total sum of payments received in ecological fund.

The financing lack of nature-protection measurements, being of old equipment need to be repaired, shortage of resources for buying new equipment are the main causes of bad situation of water resources and atmosphere.

In 2000 the total sum of investments directed to measurements on environment protection and rational using of nature resources is 1900 \$. This is 0,2 % of the total investments volume of country.

One of the main important problems in prevention of injurious influence on nature is an utilisation of unhealthy substances, however a level of an utilisation remains very low. In general have utilised only 50% of total value of rendered and caught substances.

Every year there 170 mln.cube m. thrown down to water objects of the country reflects an alarm. In 2000 the total volume of water obtained from natural sources is 11110 mln. cube m. or 93% of the level of 1999. The main part of water are used in irrigating and agricultural water supply-58% , industry needs - 35%. 7% are used for domestic needs. The total over-flow are 4114 mln. cube m. of which were thrown down - 4106 mln. cube m. The value thrown down to superficial reservoirs without any purification increased onto 2% in comparison with 1999. The main volume of thrown sewage is realised by housing and communal services (85%).

Accumulated and appearing toxic waste of industry and consumption, which are dangerous for population health and environment affects an ecology tension. There were accumulated 2,9 mln. tons of dangerous waste in polygons, store-houses etc. by the beginning of 2001.

During 2000 there were accumulated 27 000 tons of toxic waste (1999-13 000 tons). The main factor of improving of ecology statement is rational using of production waste. An observation clear demonstrated that only 43% of toxic waste of total value are used in their own productions.

Toxic waste as a dangerous substances for population health need a special organisation of warehousing and burial. Therein the situation in our country isn't prosperous because almost there aren't burial places and warehouses. That's why enterprises have to dump toxic waste to domestic dumps, to organise dumps on their own territory or in other places that causes environment pollution.

The table below includes data on population diseases with first-time diagnosis on separate diseases groups.

	1990	1995	2000
All diseases (number of cases)	1 731 754	1 601 014	1 354 540
of which:			
Infectious and parasitical diseases	214 837	146 156	151 529
Neoplasm	7 765	6 240	6 292
Endocrine system diseases	25 159	26 544	28 399
Diseases of blood and haemotogenic organs	12 021	19 062	24 460
Diseases of the blood circulation system	64 306	73 448	97 645
Diseases of the nervous system and organs of sense	98 340	110 577	84 915
Diseases of the respiratory system	806 722	753 754	608 559
Injuries and poisonings	238 229	187 198	126 903
All diseases (rates per 1 000 population)	245	212	171
of which:			
Infectious and parasitic diseases	30	19	19
Neoplasm	1	1	1
Endocrine system diseases	4	4	4
Diseases of blood and haemotogenic organs	2	3	3
Diseases of the blood circulation system	9	10	12
Diseases of the nervous system and organs of sense	14	15	11
Diseases of the respiratory system	114	100	77
Injuries and poisonings	34	25	16

It is typical that the most widespread diseases in Azerbaijan are diseases of the respiratory system reaching up to 45% of total number of diseases. It is significant to note that this indicator for children under 14 is equal to 53% and certainly related to non-prosperous environment.

High level of pollution of reservoirs worsen the quality of water in centralised sources causes a high level of infectious and parasitic diseases in Azerbaijan, concluding more than 11% of all diseases.

As you can see in the table above, main part of population of Azerbaijan are suffering of blood circulation system diseases, which have been increased up to 33% since 1995. It is very important to note that mortality on cardiovascular system diseases causes takes one of the first places.

Beginning from 1989 was noted of increasing of nervous system diseases, reflected by complicated military-political and social-economic situation in the country. But within last years there was appeared some positive progress in this statement. So, a number of people suffering from nervous system diseases cutout on 23% in comparison with indicators of 1999.

There were 1,2 mln. people or one of every seven residents of the country under dispensary observation on chronically diseases. A high level of morbidity, especially suffering from chronically diseases causes to losing of work capacity and disability.

A number of persons considered as disable have increased two times in 2000 in comparison with the same indicator in 1995 (from 20 up to 37 disable person per 10000 people). A number of disable persons under 16 from childhood were already 6800 people, that more than the same indicator in 1995 up to 3,5 times.