



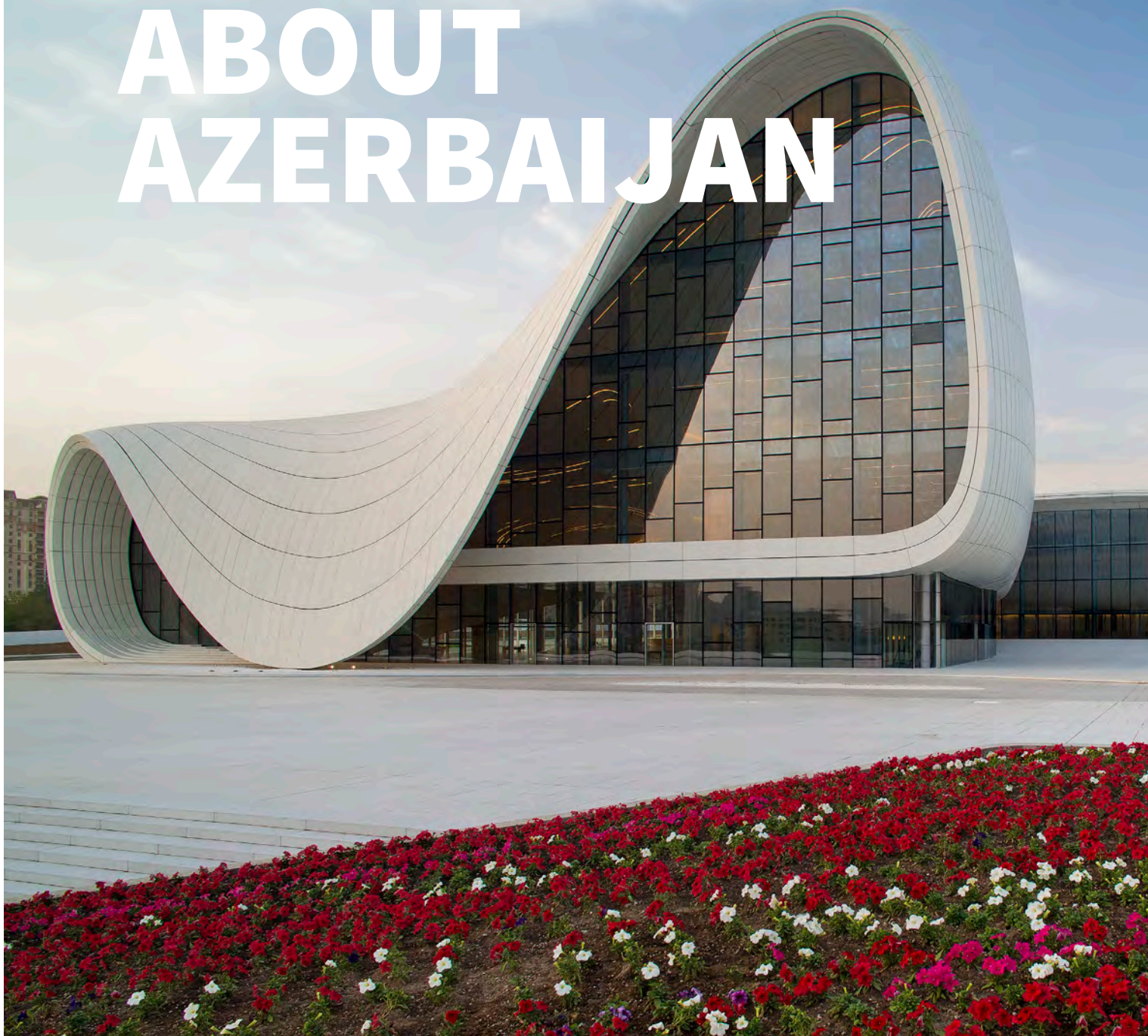
AZERBAIJAN

DIGITAL BRIDGE BETWEEN EUROPE AND ASIA

CANDIDATURE FOR ITU COUNCIL

2019-2022 YEARS (REGION C)

ABOUT AZERBAIJAN



AZERBAIJAN IS A LAND OF ANCIENT TRADITIONS AND RICH HISTORY, A COUNTRY THAT SITS AT THE **CROSSROADS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST**, WHERE EASTERN WISDOM MEETS WESTERN PROGRESS.

For centuries, Azerbaijan was a major center of trade and transit on the historic silk route. This has had an incredible impact on our culture, making Azerbaijan a country loyal to values of tolerance, new ideas and intercultural dialogue.

Since regaining its independence in 1991, Azerbaijan has emerged as a democratic, secular and constitutional state with a vibrant and diverse culture, developing an inclusive economy and social equality.

Over the past years, the Government of Azerbaijan has been implementing the policy of transforming its hydrocarbon-based traditional economy into knowledge-based economy. Nowadays, ICT apart from being a rapidly developing sector of economy, also plays a key role in economic diversification process, which aims to have an undisputable positive impact on all the spheres of life.





**DIGITAL
AZERBAIJAN**

RECENT **INNOVATIONS** AND **REFORMS**

As the development of high technologies and digitalization process in the country entered a new phase, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies was established in 2004. Since then, numerous state programs and other related important documents have been endorsed to create a sustainable information infrastructure in the country. National Strategy on the Development of Information Society encompasses the development of ICT infrastructure and services, high technologies, promotion of e-government and more effective and transparent public administration, strengthening the scientific and technical potential of high technologies, training of personnel, as well as ensuring cyber security.

THE GOVERNMENT OF AZERBAIJAN PROMOTES DIGITAL ECONOMY THROUGH ESTABLISHING AND FINANCING HIGH-TECH PARKS, BUSINESS INCUBATORS AND SPECIAL INDUSTRIAL ZONES.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) residing at those parks receive tax and customs incentives as part of state promotion program. Moreover, through the State Fund for ICT Development, the Government provides financial support to the small and medium-sized enterprises and startups by grants and credits.

Improving digital knowledge, skills and capacity of the youth constitutes the cornerstone of the state ICT policy.

Since last year, free Wi-Fi was installed in more than 20 public parks throughout capital city Baku.

First ever TIER III Data Center in the Caucasus region, which purports to turn Azerbaijan into a regional information transit center, was inaugurated in 2016 in Baku.

Azerbaijan attaches great importance to the expansion of e-services in the country. Today, almost 500 government services are delivered through the single electronic platform – e-Government portal.



STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS

INTERNET USERS, MOBILE USERS, E-GOV, E-PARTICIPATION, ETC

78.2 percent of the population **is internet users**, while **77.4 percent** of households have permanent internet connection. "According to the Global Competitiveness Report **2017-2018** Azerbaijan is ranked **34** in the world for the percentage of internet users".

Over the past few years, Azerbaijan has been dynamically developing mobile communications and the number of mobile subscribers increased to **10.3** million, which makes up **112%** of the population. 3G and 4G services are provided in the mobile sector.


The volume of **investments** in the ICT sector in 2016 was **139 million US dollars**.

Revenues from all telecommunication services in 2016 were about **1.1 billion US dollars**.

Modernization of communication infrastructure is of utmost importance for the Government. As a result of sturdy efforts, almost **all telephone networks have already been digitalized**.

UN's Global E-Government Survey 2017 ranked Azerbaijan **56th for E-Government Development Index** and **47th for E-Participation Index**.

WEF's Global Competitiveness Index 2017-2018 positioned Azerbaijan on **35th place**, while the country was ranked **56th** in the Technological Readiness Index, and **53rd** in the Networked Readiness Index of the Global Information Technology Report **2017 published** by WEF.



**AZERBAIJAN
AT ITU**

Azerbaijan joined the ITU in 1992, shortly after regaining its independence, and has ever since been fully committed to the values of the Union. During these years, Azerbaijan established close relations with ITU, actively participated in all important events and hosted many workshops and seminars under the aegis of ITU.

With the strong support of the international community, Azerbaijan became a member of the Council in 2014.

DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS, AS A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL, AZERBAIJAN HAS BEEN UNDERTAKING RELEVANT MEASURES TO ENFORCE ITU'S POLICIES AND ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING AT A NUMBER OF EVENTS ORGANIZED BY THE ITU, INCLUDING REGIONAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES HELD BY ITU

Such as ITU Telecom World, World Summit on Information Society (WSIS), World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), World Radio-communication

Conference (WRC) and Radio Advisory Group. Moreover, since 2009 Azerbaijan has actively participated at annual ITU Telecom World conference-exhibitions with its National Pavilion, which engaged national businesses, startups and NGOs, and featured achievements in the ICT sector.

Azerbaijan supports the ITU Secretariat to drive the broadband deployment across the world and is closely engaged in the activities of the UN Broadband Commission for Digital Development.

Azerbaijan is committed to the values of the ITU and eager to contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) not only in the country, but also in the region. Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway project, which has been endorsed by 3 resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, aims to close the digital gap and improve connectivity between Europe and Asia.

With the strong support of the ITU, Azerbaijan joined the list of space countries in 2013 by launching its first ever satellite to the space. Currently, Azerbaijan owns two satellites and is planning to launch another one later this year.



WHY AZERBAIJAN



Azerbaijan nominated its candidature to the Council 3 times since 2006 and was finally elected to the Council from C region for the very first time at the Plenipotentiary Conference held in Busan in 2014.

As an active member of the ITU for 26 years and having become an ITU Council Member for the second time, Azerbaijan will continue its efforts in strengthening the ties between “East” and “West” and bridging the existing digital divide in order to make its efficient contribution to the overall work of the ITU.

BY BECOMING AN ITU COUNCIL MEMBER, WE WILL STRIVE TO PRIORITIZE CYBER SECURITY, WHICH IS ONE OF THE MAIN PROBLEMS OF THE CONTEMPORARY INFORMATION SOCIETY AND QUITE NEW FOR AZERBAIJAN, ALONGSIDE WITH THE CHALLENGE OF ATTAINING THE EFFICIENT USE OF E-SECURITY AND E-SERVICES WITH LOWER RISK FACTORS.



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