

International Cooperation in the field of Business and Human Rights

The concept of business and human rights aims to ensure corporate accountability by considering the impact of business activities on human rights. The [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#) define the obligations of states and business entities to protect and respect human rights.

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) play a key role in monitoring business and human rights, providing recommendations, investigating complaints, and raising awareness.

The Ombudsman Institution of Azerbaijan conducts research in the field of business and human rights, proposes legislative improvements, collaborates with state agencies and the private sector, reviews complaints related to human rights violations, and organizes public awareness activities.

- **Seminar on Business and Human Rights in Azerbaijan with the participation of an international expert:**

In October 2022, for the first time, the Ombudsman's Office, with the support of the UN Development Programme's country office, organized a seminar on business and human rights for its staff and civil society institutions. The seminar was held in a hybrid format, and with the coordination of the Ombudsman's Office, the participation of employees from [TURKOMB](#) member institutions was ensured.

- **Conference on Business and Human Rights:**

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Ombudsman Institution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Baku International Conference of Ombudsmen on the theme "[The Role of Ombudsmen and National Human Rights Institutions in Business and Human Rights](#)" was held on October 19-20, 2022.

The aim of the [conference](#) was to discuss current trends and challenges in the field of business and human rights and to share good country experiences.

The conference was attended by the heads and representatives of Ombudsman institutions and National Human Rights Institutions from Türkiye, Pakistan, Morocco, Indonesia, Moldova, Japan, Hong Kong, Northern Cyprus, Saudi Arabia, Kyrgyzstan, Iran, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Hungary, China, and Korea, as well as representatives of international organizations and civil society institutions.



- **Study visit on Business and Human Rights:**

[With the support of the UN Development Programme and the coordination of the Ombudsman's Office, for the first time in 2022, a delegation of eight staff members from the Office participated in a training visit to the Danish Institute for Human Rights.](#)

During the visit, they enhanced their knowledge and expertise in business and human rights and exchanged views on the development of a national assessment document in the relevant field.

In 2024, taking into account the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the Ombudsman's Office, with input from UNDP experts, prepared the National Baseline Assessment (NBA) on business and human rights.



- The delegation led by the Ombudsman participated in the [Conference](#) of GANHRI on Business and Human Rights:

[The Role and Experiences of National Human Rights Institutions" at the annual meeting of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions \(GANHRI\) held in Geneva in 2024.](#) During her speech at the session, Ombudsman provided information on the work being done to implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights into national legislation, the consultations and discussions held to explore perspectives and positive

practices in the field, and the initiatives for the promotion and protection of human rights in this area. During the session, a meeting was held with Livio Sarandrea, the Global Lead on Business and Human Rights at the United Nations Development Programme, and discussions took place regarding the national assessment document on business and human rights.



- **Participation in the Asian Ombudsman Association meeting:**

[In 2024, the delegation led by the Ombudsman participated in the 25th meeting of the Board of Directors of the Asian Ombudsman Association \(AOA\) held in Istanbul, Turkey.](#)

At the suggestion of the Ombudsman, a special session on business and human rights was held during the meeting. During this session, a presentation titled "Preliminary Assessment Document on Business and Human Rights: The Azerbaijan Experience" was given by a representative of the UN Development Programme's regional office in Istanbul. The presentation discussed the collaboration between the UNDP office in Azerbaijan and the Ombudsman institution, as well as the process of developing the national assessment document.

At the conclusion of the event, the participants accepted the proposal to conduct a training for AOA member organizations on raising awareness of business and human rights, which was included in that year's action plan.



- **Awareness-Raising on Business and Human Rights in Collaboration with the Asian Ombudsman Association:**

Based on the decision adopted at the 25th meeting of the Board of Directors of the Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA) held in Istanbul, an online [event on the exchange of experiences in the field of business and human rights was organized on December 17, 2024](#), with the support of the UN Development Programme and co-organized by the Ombudsman Office and AOA. Representatives from ombudsman offices and national human rights institutions of Pakistan, Indonesia, Turkey, Malaysia, Thailand, Tatarstan, and other countries, members of the Ombudsman Association of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, representatives of state institutions, and transnational companies participated in the event. The Ombudsman delivered a speech, emphasizing the importance of special attention being paid to business and human rights issues by an organization such as the Asian Ombudsman Association, covering a wide region, in the effective

protection of human rights. Subsequently, the Head of the Department on Cooperation with International and Civil Society Organizations of the Ombudsman Office provided detailed information to the participants on the process of preparing the national assessment document on "Business and Human Rights." [The event also featured a comprehensive presentation by Harpreet Kaur, an expert from the UN Development Programme, on the global efforts in this field.](#)

