

Summary of Cooperation between the Ombudsman Institution of Azerbaijan and the Ombudsman Association of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-AOA)

The Ombudsman Association of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-AOA) is an international platform established to strengthen cooperation among ombudsmen and national human rights institutions (NHRIs) of OIC member states. The Association was founded at an international conference held in Islamabad, Pakistan, in 2014, based on the necessity of promoting the protection of human rights, accountability, and good governance within the OIC region. The Secretariat of OIC-AOA operates under the Office of the Federal Tax Ombudsman of Pakistan.

The main objectives of OIC-AOA are to facilitate the exchange of experience among ombudsman institutions of member states, promote joint activities, strengthen institutional capacity in the field of human rights protection, and develop cooperation within the framework of the OIC.¹

The Ombudsman of the Republic of Azerbaijan actively cooperates with OIC-AOA. The Azerbaijani Ombudsman Institution is not only a member of the Association but is also represented on its Board of Directors.

As a member of the OIC-AOA Board of Directors, Ombudsman Sabina Aliyeva has participated in the Association's General Assemblies, Board meetings, and other international events, presenting Azerbaijan's position on human rights protection, the rights of vulnerable groups and women, as well as on issues of regional cooperation.

The Ombudsman Institution of Azerbaijan is also represented in the OIC-AOA Subcommittee on Women's Rights.

Within the framework of international cooperation, the Ombudsman Institution of Azerbaijan, together with OIC-AOA, organized an online training seminar for the ombudsman institutions of member states. The seminar aimed to enhance knowledge and skills in the effective protection of human rights and to strengthen the exchange of experience.

In October 2022, at the initiative of the Ombudsman, Azerbaijan hosted the OIC-AOA General Assembly. In addition to Azerbaijan, representatives from Türkiye, Pakistan, Morocco, Iran, and Indonesia participated in the event.²

At the invitation of Ombudsman Sabina Aliyeva, in 2020 and 2021, delegations led by the OIC-AOA President and the Adviser to the Secretary-General conducted fact-finding missions to observe the Armenia's war crimes against Azerbaijan, the destruction of cultural heritage, and acts of ecological terrorism. The reports prepared based on the findings were submitted to international organizations.

¹ <https://oicoa.org/about.html>

² <https://ombudsman.az/az/news/465>