



Regulations
on the Working Group on Business and Human Rights
under the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Republic of Azerbaijan
(Ombudsman)

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- (1). The Working Group on Business and Human Rights under the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan (*hereinafter* referred to as the “Working Group”) was established in accordance with Order No. 253 dated 27 March 2013 of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
- (2). In its activities, the Working Group shall be guided by the relevant legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, these Regulations, and the orders and recommendations of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman).
- (3). The venue of the events of the Working Group shall be determined in advance by mutual agreement among its members, taking into account the subject matter of the event and other relevant considerations.
- (4). The Head of the Ombudsman Office shall take the necessary measures to ensure the organization and proper functioning of the Working Group.

II. PURPOSE OF THE WORKING GROUP

- (5). The purpose of the Working Group is to promote the more effective protection and realization of human rights and freedoms by strengthening the corporate responsibility of business entities, identifying existing gaps and problematic areas, and formulating recommendations and suggestions to improve the legislative framework in this field.

(6). The Working Group shall also support the implementation of the assignments arising from the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated 27 December 2011, "On the Approval of the National Action Program to Increase the Effectiveness of the Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms in the Republic of Azerbaijan" (paras. 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.13, 2.17, 2.21 and 3.2), and develop and present to the Commissioner for Human Rights the relevant documents and recommendations in this regard.

II. COMPOSITION OF THE WORKING GROUP

(7). The Working Group shall consist of the following members:

- The Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- The Ministry of Taxes of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- The Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- The State Labor Inspectorate Service;
- The Azerbaijan Trade Unions Confederation;
- The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- The State Service for Antimonopoly and Consumer Market under the Ministry of Economy;
- The Independent Consumer Union (ICU);
- The Small and Medium Enterprise Development Support Center (SMEDC);
- The Fund of Assistance to Development of Entrepreneurship;
- The "Law World" Legal Advocacy Public Union;
- The Azerbaijan National NGO Forum;
- The National Confederation of Entrepreneurs (Employers) Organizations;
- The "Mulk" Public Association;
- The Citizens' Labor Rights Protection League;
- The Azerbaijan Women and Development Centre;
- The Union of Disabled Peoples' Organizations (UDPO);
- The Disabled Women Society of Azerbaijan (DWSA);
- The Azerbaijan Children and Youth Peace Network;
- The "Research of Social Rights" Public Union;
- The "Integration of People with Disabilities into Society" Public Union;
- The Azerbaijan Society of the Blind;
- The Resource Centre for the Elderly;
- The "Clean World" Public Union; and
- The Azerbaijan Diabetes League (ADL).

(8). Membership in the WG is based on the principle of voluntariness, and its composition may be subject to change.

III. DUTIES AND AREAS OF ACTIVITY OF THE WORKING GROUP

(9). The duties and areas of activity of the Working Group shall include the following:

(9.1) to develop recommendations and suggestions to strengthen the protection of the rights of employees and consumers by separate businesses and their managers, without interfering in entrepreneurial activity, and to address instances of discrimination in labour relations;

(9.2) to hold comprehensive discussions on existing issues in the field of Business and Human Rights, and to develop recommendations and suggestions to improve the mechanisms for reviewing incoming complaints, to address identified violations, and to ensure their effectiveness;

(9.3). to conduct joint monitoring activities with a view to ensuring the effective protection of employees' labor rights;

(9.4). to establish a hotline to ensure the prompt examination of complaints in the field of Business and Human Rights;

(9.5). to promote the adoption of appropriate child labor policies and strategies within business entities with a view to preventing and addressing instances of child labor exploitation;

(9.6). to undertake relevant measures to protect consumer rights and strengthen oversight of the quality of goods and services, including monitoring the production and sale of eco-friendly and safe food products;

(9.7). to develop recommendations for preventing the negative environmental impact of entrepreneurship;

(9.8). to monitor national legislation in the field of Business and Human Rights and to develop recommendations and suggestions to address identified gaps;

(9.9). to organize awareness-raising activities among entrepreneurs and, for this purpose, to ensure the preparation and dissemination of printed materials outlining the relevant provisions of national legislation and international legal instruments, as well as the broadcasting of informational video materials;

(9.10). to take measures to raise awareness among the staff of enterprises;

(9.11). to facilitate the participation of representatives of business entities in future events organized in the field of Business and Human Rights;

(9.12). to establish a unified e-database in the field of Business and Human Rights;

(9.13). to invite, for the purpose of supporting the activities of the Working Group, foreign consultants, representatives of state agencies, institutions and organizations, as well as other entities, including researchers and academic staff of scientific research and higher education institutions, and experts in relevant fields, and to organize meetings with them.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP

(10). Meetings of the Working Group shall be held at a venue agreed in advance, in accordance with a schedule and agenda determined beforehand by the members of the Group and approved by the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

(11). Where necessary, meetings of the Working Group may also be convened on an extraordinary basis.

(12) The Institution of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan shall be designated as the coordinating body of the Working Group.

(13). Meetings of the Working Group shall be deemed quorate when attended by at least two-thirds of its members.

(14). Decisions of the Working Group shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the members present at the meeting.

(15). The minutes (outcomes) of the meetings of the Working Group, including the decisions adopted, shall be prepared by the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan.