



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/OPA/CONF.3/2003/19/S.19 (Summary)
4 August 2003

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN
ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN ONLY

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COORDINATING UNIT FOR OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES
CIS FORUM ON YOUTH

“Youth of the XXI Century: Realities and Perspectives”
Kiev, Ukraine, 24-26 September 2003

**SOCIAL DIALOGUE AND ITS ROLE IN TACKLING PROBLEMS
FACED BY YOUNG PEOPLE IN AZERBAIJAN: SEARCH FOR
EFFECTIVE FORMS OF COOPERATION**

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Summary

The reforms currently under way in Azerbaijan, as in other States, depend heavily on the effective operation of the institutions of civil society and their interaction with the organs of State authority in tackling the country’s social and economic problems and adopting political decisions. The present paper considers current problems encountered in developing dialogue between the State and public sectors and ways of tackling these problems, seen from the standpoint of solutions to the problems faced by young people in the country.

The present situation has been largely determined by the following causes: first, flaws in the legislative framework applicable to non-governmental organizations and their interaction with the institutions of State power; second, the highly politicized nature of relations between non-governmental organizations and the authorities and the dichotomy between that which people perceive as “their own” and that which is “other people’s”, which impedes efforts to solve specific problems faced by young people; third, red tape and bureaucratic delays by the

authorities in registering non-governmental organizations and their activities; fourth, the lack of any real State funding for non-governmental organizations, which are primarily supported by overseas donors. All this attests to the lack of any carefully thought-out strategy for interaction at the level of the State youth policy and the failure to involve non-governmental organizations in this process. At the same time, many non-governmental organizations show virtually no interest in changing the status quo and, through their actions, sometimes even have the effect of worsening the already negative attitude to them.

That said, there has recently been some progress in this matter, which points to positive trends. Azerbaijan's Ministry of Youth, Sports and Tourism and Ministry of Economic Development are actively working with the non-governmental organization sector and the experience of cooperation between the non-governmental organizations and these State bodies, as well as the mechanisms of such cooperation, could serve as the basis for the development of an appropriate cooperation strategy.
