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**Respected colleagues,  
ladies and gentlemen !**




**AFLATUN MAMEDOV  
CHIEF OF TELECOMMUNICATION DIVISIONS OF  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION & IT  
E-MAIL : [PLATON@AZERIN.COM](mailto:PLATON@AZERIN.COM)  
TEL: + 99 412 98 48 50  
FAX : + 99 412 93 10 32**


# **THE FOLLOWING MAY BE REFERRED AS THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE INFORMATION SOCIETY:**

- *establishment of global information environment;*
- *mass usage of ICT, creation of new forms of social and economic activities;*
- *conversion of information to a commodity, forming and development of information and knowledge market;*
- *improvement of educational system, growth of professional and overall cultural level due to enhancement of information exchange systems in international, national and regional levels;*
- *establishment of environment to ensure the right of citizens and social institutions such as to obtain, disseminate and use information, which is an important factor for democratic development.*

# **The Following Clearly Indicates Interest And Willingness of ICT Application, as well as Possibilities For Its Realization:**


- The Government of Azerbaijan is willing to accelerate building the information society and on the other hand UNDP and other international organizations are ready to provide technical and financial support in this sphere;*
- The State of Azerbaijan already has some positive experience on creating the legislative base of information society;*
- Modern ICT was widely used during admission process to the institutes of higher and vocational education, online knowledge assessment was applied, appropriate information resources were created. Wide information services have been provided to residents via Internet;*

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- *ICT was successfully implemented in the admission process of judges and other state officials;*
  - *The state automated "Elections" system was developed and ICT has widely been using in elections since 2000;*
  - *The Research and Education network connecting a number of the research institutes and universities was developed;*
  - *Project on establishment of regional Academy for training of ICT experts was implemented;*
  - *Modern ICT was widely used in the project "National Passport System of Azerbaijan";*
  - *Projects of real time interbank electronic national payment system and automatic clearing system for small payments were implemented in the banking system of Azerbaijan;*
  - *With the support of international organizations several regional information–education centers were established in the republic;*

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- *National fiber optic telecommunication network was created in the framework of the Trans Asia Europe project and based on this most of the existing telecommunication channels of Azerbaijan were transferred to digital mode;*
  - *The fiber optic telecommunication line along the Baku-Tbilisi railway was installed in the framework of TRACECA project; "Data Transmission Network and Automated Control System" was created in the state customs system to improve management and procedures;*
  - *The "Corporate Telecommunication Network" and the "Automated Control Systems" projects were implemented in the State Oil Company;*
  - *Other significant projects on ICT were implemented in a number of state and private organizations, etc.*

# **FACTORS CHARACTERIZING THE PRESENT SITUATION POSITIVELY:**

- *high level of population's literacy and education; country-wide existence of appropriate conditions for use of Internet;*
- *existence of national private telecommunication operators and their growth;*
- *existence of the extensive experience in applications of ICT in national projects;*
- *existence of favorable business and investment environment and its recognition by international organizations including Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, interest of foreign investors in the ICT sector of economy;*
- *favorable geographic location of Azerbaijan with international transport highways and communication channels passing through the territory of the country;*

- *stable development of economy and rich energy resources of the country;*
  - *modernization of the computer park and software as a result of Y2K problem resolving activities;*
  - *formation of cellular phone network covering overall republic and its permanent development;*
  - *upgrade and expansion of wired phone network and digital communication channels development.*
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## **FACTORS CHARACTERIZING OF THE PRESENT SITUATION :**

- *expedient state policy defining directions for work connected with usage of ICT and its priorities, ensuring coordination of activities hasn't been fully determined;*
- *legislative base regulating the usage of ICT is not yet comprehensive;*
- *in connection with the transition period of the country and existence over one million refugees and IDPs as a result of occupation of 20% of the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan by Armenian Republic, the government can't allocate sufficient financial means for ICT application;*
- *"brain-drain" to the developed countries in connection with the transition period;*
- *little awareness of the population about advantages and opportunities of the ICT;*



- *insufficient number of high level professionals in the ICT sector;*
- *the country-wide low level of computerization on the whole; the disciplines connected with ICT at all levels of educational process don't meet the up-to-date requirements;*
- *the "digital divide" between rural and urban areas of Azerbaijan;*
- *serious problems in broad usage of Azerbaijani in the ICT sector;*
- *insufficiency of the technical documentation in Azerbaijani on ICT;*
- *very slow process of nation-wide information resources formation;*
- *the republic does not participate actively in many international integration projects on ICT;*
- *telecommunication tariffs existing in the republic create serious obstacles to usage of ICT;*
- *existence of the government monopoly hampering the innovations and fair competition in the telecommunication sector.*


# THE KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY ARE:

- *create and develop legislative base of the information society;*
- *develop human factor in the country, create favorable environment for the population to get adequate education and medical service;*
- *establish environment to ensure the opportunities to the citizens and social institutions to obtain, disseminate and use information;*
- *conduct effective, transparent and controllable state administration and local self-administration, create electronic government, form and develop electronic commerce;*
- *enhance country's economic, social, and intellectual potential, create competitive economy, create and develop information and knowledge market;*

- *protect and popularize broadly people's historical, literary and cultural heritage;*
- *create advanced information communication infrastructure, form a common electronic information environment in the country, increase information and communication services; ensure country's information security;*
- *integrate country into the international information society; develop production of national software products, production of other ICT products (ICT industry);*
- *eliminate the "**digital divide**" in the country.*

# THE STATE PLAYS THE KEY ROLE IN CREATING FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR BUILDING THE INFORMATION SOCIETY, AND ITS MAIN ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- *forming a legislative base and its regular modernization; analyzing and regulating the activities relating to information technologies in the country;*
- *creating the national and state information systems, forming the information resources, control activities of the state institutions in this sphere;*
- *creating admissible environment for new situation, which will serve for attracting foreign and local investments and for fair competition;*
- *creating equal conditions for all participants, using political, legal, economic and administrative mechanisms to attract and involve wide layers of the society in implementation of the strategy, and coordinating their activities;*

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- *ensuring protection of civil rights and freedoms and security of personal and private information;*
  - *creating for citizens opportunities of access to state information resources;*
  - *ensuring the national information security;*
  - *mobilizing financial resources required for implementation of the strategy, providing governmental support to the social oriented and national important projects and programs;*
  - *creating favorable conditions for production national ICT hardware and software products, and stimulating their promotion at the world market & favorable environment for private companies, especially small and medium-sized companies acting in the ICT sector for ICT usage in all fields of economy;*
  - *using modern ICT in state administration and local self-administration;*
  - *carrying out regular activities on forming electronic government;*
  - *enhancing international cooperation for ensuring national interests in ICT.*



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !**

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**ANY QUESTIONS ?**