



## MISSION OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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*Press release*

*20 March 2007*

### AZERBAIJANI FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS UN SECRETARY-GENERAL IN NEW YORK

On March 20<sup>th</sup> there was a meeting between the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Elmar Mammadyarov and the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the UN Headquarters in New York.

E. Mammadyarov congratulated the UN Secretary-General on his election to this high position and wished him every success in finding solutions to difficult tasks facing this most important international organization in providing peace, security and development around the globe as well as in implementing reforms aimed at further improving the work of the United Nations.

The Secretary-General warmly welcomed the Foreign Minister and recalled his visits to Azerbaijan.

Further, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan informed the Secretary-General about the current stage of negotiations on the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, including about the recent consultations in Geneva. Azerbaijan's position that a more active involvement of various international organizations, including the United Nations, in settling regional conflicts would undoubtedly contribute to their soonest settlement within universally accepted norms and principles of the international law, including the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, was expressed.

The Minister and Ban Ki-moon also discussed the issue of the UN reform. E. Mammadyarov noted the Secretary-Generals initiative on the restructuring of the UN Secretariat, particularly the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

On his part, the UN Secretary-General noted reform process in Azerbaijan and pointed out that he was strongly impressed with the economic achievements of Azerbaijan.

Talking about the economic progress of Azerbaijan, the Minister pointed out that our country was becoming a regional power and played an increasingly important role in the region.

Later, he talked about the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and stated that Azerbaijan was ready to share its experience in this field with the UN Member-States.

At the end, the Minister conveyed the greeting and best wishes from the President of Azerbaijan as well as his invitation to visit our country. The invitation was thankfully accepted. The date of the visit will be agreed through diplomatic channels.

On the same day, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan E. Mammadyarov left New York for Washington DC.

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