



# NEWSLETTER

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## President of Azerbaijan Attended NATO Summit

On November 19-20, President Ilham Aliyev participated in the Lisbon NATO Summit and spoke at the meeting of the heads of states of the nations contributing to ISAF (International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan). President Aliyev highlighted the successful cooperation between the Azerbaijani armed forces and NATO, including the peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan. The President underlined that Azerbaijan's cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is beneficial. Stating that the country had been active in NATO "Partnership for Peace" Program and Individual Partnership Action Plan, President Ilham Aliyev also drew attention to the fact Azerbaijan had been in close cooperation with NATO peacemaking operations around the world. The President said Azerbaijani peacekeepers were making military and civil contribution to NATO's International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

## NATO Once Again Reconfirmed the Territorial Integrity of Azerbaijan

The NATO Summit Declaration adopted in Lisbon expressed "great concern" over the "the persistence of protracted regional conflicts in South Caucasus and the Republic of Moldova" and reiterated NATO's commitment to "the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova." In a rather revealing move, Armenia's President Serzh Sarkissian decided to boycott the Summit in protest over NATO's stated support to territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of his own nation and its neighbours.

## Azerbaijan Hosted Caspian Summit in Baku

On November 18, President Aliyev hosted his counterparts from Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan. The Baku Summit of the Heads of the Caspian Sea littoral states focused on regional security, environment and maritime delimitation. The event denoted a more intensive regional diplomacy by the Caspian states. The presidents recognized the need for national sectors of the Sea, raising hopes for progress on the Caspian Sea Legal Status Convention. Delimitation of the Caspian Sea, which was divided between Iran and then USSR prior to 1991, remains incomplete.

## Azerbaijani Carpet-Weaving Recognized as World Cultural Heritage

Oil and gas wealth may have put Azerbaijan on the map, but UNESCO has decided that the world is also indebted to the Caspian Sea country for its tradition of carpet-weaving. The ancient craft won a place on the list of world heritages that the world body for culture and science wants to celebrate and preserve. The Intangible Cultural Heritage list differs from UNESCO's World Heritage Site list by commemorating "intangibles" such as the performing arts, social practices, rituals and festivals, rather than "monuments and collections of objects." Azerbaijani carpet-weaving, around for millennia, shared pride of place with French cuisine and Turkish oil wrestling. Dancing, singing and even hopping are among the world's other impalpable cultural assets, according to UNESCO.

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*Embassy Newsletter is compiled from various sources*