



*Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan*

**PRESS-RELEASE**

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**The Republic of Azerbaijan elected to the United Nations Security Council**

On October 24, 2011, the Republic of Azerbaijan was elected a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the term 2012-2013, garnering 155 votes from the UN member countries, at the elections held during the 66th session of the General Assembly. Azerbaijan is to take its seat on the UN Security Council from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2013.

Azerbaijan became a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in the 17th round of votes succeeding over Hungary and Slovenia in the Group of Eastern European States. From the first round Azerbaijan was leading the election. The victory for Azerbaijan coincided with two symbolic dates: firstly, with the 20th anniversary of regaining independence from the Soviet Union (October 18), and secondly, with the date of the founding of the United Nations (October 24).

In a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, it is pointed out that this achievement is an indication of the success of Azerbaijan's diplomacy and foreign policy as well as the authority gained at international arena due its political stability, solid economic performance and partnership with UN member states.

The year 2012 will mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Azerbaijan's membership to the United Nations. Azerbaijan has never had an opportunity to be a member of the Security Council and has for the first time been elected to this UN organ. It is also first country from the South Caucasus and Central Asia elected to the Security Council.

Since joining to the United Nations on 2 March 1992, Azerbaijan has consistently demonstrated its strong commitment to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which are indispensable foundations of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world.

Azerbaijan is fully committed to and making sustained efforts for maintaining international peace, security and stability. Azerbaijan makes significant contribution to the counter-terrorism efforts of the international community and undertook a number of important practical measures to that end. It is a party to thirteen international counter-terrorism instruments.

As a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, Azerbaijan will fully dedicate itself to contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security and to making the Security Council more representative, transparent and efficient organ so that it could address effectively the full range of challenges and threats confronting our world. Further, Azerbaijan is planning, based on its experience, to make contribution to the dialogue among civilizations, international development and other humanitarian projects.