



1st INTERNATIONAL MODEL
UN SECURITY COUNCIL
CONFERENCE

17.10.2013

Dear Delegates,

We're honoured and privileged to welcome you to the First Baku International Model UN Security Council!

Young people are key drivers of change and the most important resource for future development. To ensure an active participation of Azerbaijani youth in decision and policy-making and hone their knowledge and skills as future leaders we have incepted "Youth Participation in Decision Making and Policy Implementation" project in collaboration with UNDP Azerbaijan. The project tunes with the "Azerbaijani Youth in 2011-2015" State Programme which prioritizes the need for promoting youth participation in governance and decision-making.

Azerbaijan has taken over the UN Security Council Presidency since October 1st, 2013. This is Azerbaijan's second presidency of the UN Security Council. Throughout the presidency Azerbaijan has boosted its standing on the world arena. Model UN Security Council will provide you with an opportunity to learn about the main body responsible for the protection of peace and security in the world. Model UN plays an important role in enhancing research, communication, negotiation and public speaking skills of the young people. While being ambassadors of your countries, you'll also have a chance to develop your leadership and team-building skills. These are key skills you will need throughout your life. I believe Baku International Model UN will give you a chance not only to practice them but also to make long-lasting friendships!

Apart from an academic learning, this is also a valuable chance to explore Azerbaijan which is a real crossroad between the West and the East. We live in the county which has a centuries-old history and culture. Azerbaijan has ancient cultural heritage including the distinction of being the first Muslim-majority country to have operas and theater; having the first secular school for Muslim girls in the Islamic world and being a place where Nobel brothers made their fortune. Our country is also a good example of multiculturalism and tolerance values. People coming from different religious and ethnical backgrounds live here side by side in peace and respect to each other.

I congratulate you for being selected for the first Baku International Model UN 2013 and wish you all a very enjoyable experience here in Baku!

Sincerely Yours,

Azad Rahimov

**Minister of Youth and Sport
of the Republic of Azerbaijan**