



**Ms Hanifa Mezoui**  
**Chief**  
**NGO Section/ECOSOC/UNDESA**  
**United Nations**

11 November 2004

Dear Ms. Mezoui,

As you know, the reduced number of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC in Azerbaijan and the Caspian region and their logistical and financial constraints limits their involvement and their ability to participate in the decision-making process at the international level. This isolation from the global strategy of development planning at the international level limits the effectiveness of NGOs' activities at the local level and their contribution to the implementation of the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) especially with the weak level of cooperation and exchange among NGOs in our region.

To meet these challenges, the National Assembly of Youth Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan (NAYORA) and the Fund of Aid for Youth (FAY), two leading NGOs in special consultative status with ECOSOC are organizing in Baku, Azerbaijan from 25 to 28 November 2004, High Level Consultations and Capacity Building Meetings for the UN-NGO-Informal Regional Network (UN-NGO-IRENE) in Azerbaijan and in the Caspian (Caucasian/Central Asia) Region with the full support of the Government of Azerbaijan and the kind assistance of your NGO Section, ECOSOC.

To pursue our joint effort towards a strengthened contribution of the Caspian NGOs to the MDGs, I would like to invite Ms Najet Karaborni, your UNDESA Senior Adviser and UN-NGO-IRENE Coordinator/NGO Section, for an advisory mission in Azerbaijan from 23 to 30 November 2004 in order to:

1. Help organize and conduct a Capacity Building Meeting to Launch UN-NGO-IRENE in Azerbaijan and strengthen NGO sector capacity and partnership with the United Nations
2. Conduct a Capacity Building Meeting to Launch UN-NGO-IRENE in the Caspian region and enhance NGO sector contribution to the ECOSOC work in implementing the MDGs
3. Assist in the formulation of preliminary strategic action plan for the newly established networks in Azerbaijan and for the Caspian region
4. Meet with UNDP office in Azerbaijan to discuss follow-up activities to the capacity building meetings and potential cooperation between UNDESA, UNDP, Government and NGOs to effectively and efficiently implement the strategic action plan of the UN-NGO-IRENE in Azerbaijan through the promotion of a partnership project/programme on strengthening civil society in Azerbaijan and the Caspian region.

The cost of the mission related to travel ticket and hotel accommodation (lodging and boarding) is at our charge.

We appreciate very much your continuous and kind support to our country and region and would like to take this opportunity to express our deep thanks to you and your team for our fruitful cooperation and partnership.

Sincerely yours,

Nedim KAYI  
President of FAY

