

The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

**To the participants of the Fifth Ministerial Conference on
“The Role of Women in the Development” of the OIC Member States**

Dear Conference participants!

I congratulate you on the opening of conference. Wish you all long life, good health and new success.

Today the independent Republic of Azerbaijan is establishing mutually beneficial relations with the OIC to ensure effective cooperation in the various fields. The conference devoted to the important issue takes its place among the prestigious international events organized in our country in recent years.

World Conference on Women held in 1995 in Beijing identified the key action program for all countries at the global, regional and local levels. The ministerial conference of the OIC on women's issues before held in Istanbul, Cairo, Tehran and Jakarta, as well as Baku conference in which you are participating, are an important contribution to the strengthening the role of women in society.

Paying particular attention to women's rights Islamic religion has raised the personality of the women to a deserved position. Azerbaijani women's gained one of the important factor of human rights – right to vote before a number of European countries, has achieved great success in education, health, culture and science, became one of the main forces of the state-building process.

At the same time, as a result of Armenian-Azerbaijani, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, in our country which was faced a humanitarian disaster, violated women's rights still not been restored. Despite the decision to restore the territorial integrity of our country adopted by several prestigious organizations, including the OIC, attempts toward the returning of the refugees and internally displaced persons to their homes are still fruitless.

I am confident that in the Conference will be comprehensive and effective discussions on strengthening the role of women in development, and this will be an important step in the implementation of the international and national level events in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Ilham Aliyev

Baku city

October 20th, 2014