

**Seminar on Women’s Empowerment
Mayors House. Room (tbc)**

17:00 – 17:30

Opening Session: Framing the debate on Women’s Empowerment in the South Caucasus Region.

The existence of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic from 1918 to 1920, the world’s first Muslim Democracy, provides an important opportunity to zero in on issues of good governance in today’s Azerbaijan Republic. Whilst in 1918 the newly established government extended suffrage to all persons, irrespective of ethnicity, religion or gender, thus becoming the first country in the Muslim world to give voting rights to women, what is the situation in the Azerbaijan Republic of today? How is Azerbaijan advancing an agenda of women’s empowerment today?

At its Annual Conference held in Little Rock in December 2012 “**Harnessing 21st Century Solutions: a Focus on Women**”, the Club de Madrid Members reinforced their commitment to promote gender equality worldwide and to continue working with the methodology of “leaders working with leaders”: grassroots women leaders, youth leaders, indigenous peoples and other groups. Assuring gender equality is not a mere commitment or goal but a living reality for all of us. At this session, the commitments made by the Club de Madrid at its Annual Conference will be presented in order to explore how these can be relevant to the specific situation of Azerbaijan and the South Caucasus Region.

Speakers:

- **Elmar Valiyev**, Mayor of the City of Ganja
- **Vaira Vike-Freiberga**, Member of the Board of the Nizami Ganjavi Center and Member of the Club de Madrid
- **Wim Kok**, Prime Minister of the Netherlands (1994-2002). President of the Club de Madrid
- **Hirjan Huseynova**, State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, Azerbaijan (*to be confirmed*)

17:45- 18:45

Session I: Women in politics: the need for the more active participation of women in politics and policy-making.

The political empowerment of women remains a major task in closing the gender gap. Women hold very few top government positions in the south Caucasus region. Underrepresentation of women in local and national politics is another key indicator of persistent gender inequality in the country. The male dominated political culture helps ensure the election of male candidates. Very often, to be elected to parliament, women must be top candidates on the party lists. While many support the positive discrimination provided by quotas, others highlight that this is not enough: apart from gaining a ‘seat at the table’, women should have ‘voice and agency’. This session seeks to identify specific challenges faced by women and women’s groups in Azerbaijan regarding their meaningful participation in politics and how can they learn from other relevant experiences from other countries.

Moderator:

- **Micheline Calmy-Rey**, President of Switzerland (2011), Member of the Club de Madrid

Speakers:

- **Mehriban Vezir**, Women Monitoring Group, Azerbaijan
- **Susan Sher**. Former Chief of Staff of Michelle Obama
- **Rexhep Meidani**, President of the Republic of Albania (1997-2002), Member of the Club de Madrid
- **Elmira Suleymanov**, Human Rights Commissioner (*to be confirmed*)

19:45 – 22:00

Cocktail and Welcome Dinner for all participants at Seminar on Women’s Empowerment

Ramada Plaza (Room tbc)



Monday 6th May

Conference on Women's Empowerment (continued)
Mayors House. Room (tbc)

10:00 – 11:45

Session II: Women and the labor market in the South Caucasus: Fighting against discrimination.

The gap in the levels of education in the South Caucasus reinforces and broadens the gender gap in the labor market. The participation of women in the workforce in the region has decreased partly due to the increased migration of rural women. A major goal today should be to reintegrate women into the workforce, while ensuring relevant legislation does not only exist but is efficiently implemented to guarantee full participation of women in the labor market. An important step toward mainstreaming women into the labor force would be to expand access to childcare, care for the elderly etc. Moreover, the feminization of migration requires greater gender sensibility in policies on migration, as women migrant workers are important contributors to socio-economic development. The movement of a significant number of women migrant workers may be facilitated by means of fraudulent or irregular documentation and sham marriages, sometimes even by the very technologies that enhance important freedoms. The link between migration and trafficking in persons should be further explored in order to strengthen efforts towards protecting women migrant workers from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse. How is Azerbaijan tackling these various challenges? How can they learn from other positive experiences?

Moderator:

- **Damira Sartbaeva**, Head Subregional Office, UN Women

Speakers:

- **Malahat Ibrahimgizi Aliyeva**, Co-Chair, Women National Confederation, Azerbaijan
- **Govhar Baxshaliyeva**, Member of the Azerbaijan Parliament and Former Deputy Speaker (*to be confirmed*)
- **Giuli Alasania**, Chair BoT University of Georgia
- **Jenny M. Shipley**, Prime Minister of New Zealand (1997-1999) and Vice- President of the Club de Madrid

11:45 – 12:00

Family Photograph
(Club de Madrid and Nizami Ganjavi International Center Members Only)

Mayors House (Room tbc)

12:00 – 13:30

Lunch for all participants

Mayors House (Room tbc)

13:30 – 15:00

Session III: Violence against Women & Women in peace-building: two sides of the same coin

Women in the region face a high incidence of violence against women. Early marriage and low levels of education are at the root of domestic violence against women, and child marriage limits young girls' skills, resources, knowledge, social support, mobility and autonomy. Gender stereotypes are deeply embedded in the region's cultures and women are ill-informed about their



rights, rendering them unable to take full advantage of them. As long as women live under the threat of discrimination and abuse, their access to political and economic opportunities will remain heavily constrained.

UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 and 1889 (2009) laid the ground for the recognition and participation of women in conflict and post-conflict situations. Major challenges in the region include promoting gender equality in poverty reduction strategies, recruiting women to aid in conflict resolution and peace-building and providing assistance to IDPs. Over 80% of the refugees and IDPs in Eastern Europe and Central Asia are women and children yet very few women take part in the peace processes that are essential to the stability of the region. What is Azerbaijan doing to prevent violence against women and to ensure gender-responsive conflict resolution mechanisms and policies? What can the country learn from current international efforts and initiatives?

Moderator:

- **Kim Campbell**, Prime Minister of Canada (1993), Member of the Club de Madrid

Speakers:

- Civil society representative from Azerbaijan (*to be confirmed*)
- **Hirjan Huseynova**, State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, Azerbaijan (*to be confirmed*)
- **Farida Allaghi**, President of the Libyan Social Network and Member of the Board of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center
- **Boris Tadic**, President of Serbia (2004-2012), Member of the Club de Madrid

15.00-15.30

Closing Session

- **Elmar Valiyev**, Mayor of the City of Ganja
- **Susan Greenfield**, Chancellor Heriot Watt Edinburgh University, Prof. Lincoln College of Oxford University and Member of the Board of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center
- **Jenny M. Shipley**, Prime Minister of New Zealand (1997-1999) and Vice- President of the Club de Madrid

18:00

Internal flight for all from Ganja to Baku
Hotel in Baku: Four Seasons Hotel

20:30 – 22:00

Cocktail and Dinner offered by Minister of the State Committee for the Work with Diaspora of the Republic of Azerbaijan
(By direct invitation only)

Tuesday 7th May

08:00 – 09:00

Breakfast for CdM Members and especially invited guests
Four Seasons Hotel, Room (tbc)

Conference on Shared Societies
Four Seasons Hotel, Room (tbc)

09:00 – 10:30

Opening Session

Moderator:

- **Ismail Serageldin**, Director Library of Alexandria and Co-Chair of the Board of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center

Speakers:

- **H.E. Ilham Aliyev**, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- **Wim Kok**, Prime Minister of the Netherlands (1994-2002). President of the Club de



Madrid
Keynote Speakers:
• Queen Noor of Jordan

10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
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11:00– 13:00	Plenary Session I: The Challenge of Shared Societies
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A 'shared society' is a socially cohesive society. It is stable, safe. It is where all those living there feel at home. It respects everyone's dignity and human rights while providing every individual with equal opportunity. It is tolerant. It respects diversity. A shared society is constructed and nurtured through strong political leadership. The Shared Societies Project is designed in response to an urgent call from leaders worldwide for arguments and action plans to help them effectively and constructively manage ethnic, cultural, religious and other identity differences – promoting human rights and respecting human dignity – to facilitate coexistence, inclusion, opportunity and participation. This session will explore different examples of how best to build inclusive and Shared Societies.

Moderator:

- **Federico Mayor Zaragoza**, Former Executive Director of UNESCO, Member of the Board of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center

Setting the Scene in Azerbaijan:

- **Nazim Ibrahimov**, Minister of State, Committee for Diaspora, Azerbaijan
- **Antonius Broek**, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations and Resident Representative for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Speakers:

- **Vaira Vike-Freiberga**, Member of the Board of the Nizami Ganjavi Center and Member of the Club de Madrid
- **Suleyman Demirel**, Former President of the Republic of Turkey
- **Tarja Halonen**, President of Finland (2000-2012). Member of the Board of the NGIC and Member of the Club de Madrid.
- **Jorge Quiroga**, President of Bolivia (2001-2002) and Vice-President of the Club de Madrid

13:00 – 15:00	Lunch hosted by Minister of the State Committee for the Work with Diaspora of the Republic of Azerbaijan
	<i>Fours Seasons Hotel (Room tbc)</i>

15:00– 17:00	Plenary Session II: Shared Societies as a Tool for Conflict Resolution in Complex Situations
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A paradox of globalization is that the more we come together, the more we seem to fall apart. But fear of difference is not new and in times of crisis, apprehension grows as people cling to the familiar for fear of losing out to those who are different. Many leaders are comfortable catering to the majority – some even exploit tension between people of different identities to solidify political capital among their base. Research and practice show, however, that societies are most likely to be peaceful and prosperous when leaders and citizens recognize and celebrate the value of diversity and actively build an inclusive, shared society safe for diversity. In this session, speakers will share their experience and best practices from their countries in conflict-resolution.

Moderator:

- **Theodora Bokoyannis**, Member of the Greek Parliament, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and chair OSCE

Speakers:

- **Mikheil Saakashvili**, President of the Republic of Georgia



- **Ali Babacan**, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey
- **Ehud Barak**, Former Minister of Defense of Israel
- **Sadiq Al Mahdi**, Prime Minister of Sudan (1966-1967, 1986-1989), Member of the Club de Madrid
- **Shirin Ebadi**, Nobel Peace Prize (2003)
- **Vytautas Landsbergis**, President of Lithuania (1990-1992)

17:00 – 19:00 **Free Time (Side Event below optional)**

17:00 – 18:30 **Side Event: ‘Young Leaders of Tomorrow’**

Moderator:

- **Ismail Serageldin**, Director Library of Alexandria and Co-Chair of the Board of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center

Speakers:

- **George P. Bush**, Finance Chairmen of the Republican Party of Texas
- **Patrick Kennedy**, Member of the US House of Representative from 1st district (1995-2011)
- **Luci Johnson**, Trustee Boston University
- **Baroness Susan Greenfield**, Prof. Lincoln college of Oxford University
- **Ramin Memmedov**, Chairperson World Union of Azerbaijani Youth.

19:30 – 20:15 **Inauguration of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center in Baku**

Address (tbc)

20.30 – 22.00 **Cocktail and Dinner offered by President of Azerbaijan**

(Elegant attire/Long dress. By direct invitation only)

Venue and Room (tbc)

Wednesday 8th May

**Conference on Shared Societies (continued)
Four Seasons Hotel, Room (tbc)**

09:00 – 10:45

**Working Group A:
Inter-religious and Inter-cultural Relations for Functional Societies**

As communities become ever more inter-twined and intercultural – ninety percent of the world’s countries have at least a ten percent minority – leaders face the challenge of building and maintaining social cohesion challenges in their communities and countries. How they respond to social cohesion differs from leader to leader, but one element remains true for all: they need options and tools to address this challenge. The development of diverse societies through increased immigration and globalisation has fostered pluralism in religious beliefs, practices and organisations and increased the need for religious and cultural tolerance. Moreover, rapid societal, political and economic developments have increased tensions between modern and more traditional sectors of societies. This session will look at how -far from having receded from the public sphere and become an exclusively private concern as predicted by dominant sociology doctrines- religion has re-emerged and is playing a role in contemporary politics.

Moderator:

- **Mankombu Sanbasivan Swaminathan**, Emeritus Chairman Swaminathan Research Foundation, Member of the Board of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center



<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nafis Sadek, Special Advisor to the Secretary General of the United Nations • Petar Stoyanov, President of Bulgaria (1997-2002) • Luis Alberto Lacalle, President of Uruguay (1990-1995), Member of the Club de Madrid • Valdis Zatlers, President of Latvia (2007-2011) • Valdas Adamkus, President of Lithuania (1998-2003; 2004-2009), Member of the Club de Madrid

09:00 – 10:45

<p>Working Group B: Identity Pluralism</p>
<p>The surge of expressions of ethnic identity in Azerbaijan that came with the breakup of the Soviet Union and creation of new states highlighted the Talysh and Lezgins ethnic groups. The repression of Talysh identity during the Soviet period had led to a situation in which the Talysh ethnicity is unquantifiable. Despite the weakness of ethnic movements in Azerbaijan, there are existing challenges of ethnic inclusion with multiple identities, or the potential for manifestations of discontent that could take religious forms, which are faced by the state. Understanding pluralism has to be based on the triangular relationship between the different groups that compose a society –usually national majority, historically recognized minorities, and diverse immigrant bodies. In this session we will look at different examples of how identity can be forged in the context of complex pluralistic societies and in societies that have one ethnic identity majority. Leaders from India, Yemen, Mauritius or Bulgaria will share their experiences in this issue.</p>
<p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Sher, Former Chief of Staff of Michelle Obama, First Lady of U.S.A <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karan Singh, Member of India's Upper House of Parliament, the Rajya Sabha and titular Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir • Cassam Uteem, President of Mauritius (1992-2002), Member of the Club de Madrid • Akkan Suver, Secretary General Marmara Group Foundation • Abdulkarim Al Eryani, Prime Minister of Yemen (1998-2001), Member of the Club de Madrid • Zhelyu Zhelev, President of Bulgaria (1990-1997)

10:45– 11:00

<p>Coffee Break</p>

11:00 – 13:00

<p>Plenary Session V: Combating Trafficking in Human Beings: improving prevention and prosecution</p>
<p>Often described as a modern form of slavery, trafficking in human beings is a criminal offence and a violation of international human rights that ruthlessly exploits women, children and men for numerous purposes including forced labour and sex. This global crime generates billions of dollars in profits for the traffickers. The International Labour Organization estimates that 20.9 million people are victims of forced labour globally. It represents an enormous obstacle to our freedom, and to our ability to live in peace and security. No country or region is immune from this scourge. Therefore trafficking in persons requires a forceful response founded on the assistance and protection for victims, rigorous enforcement by the criminal justice system, a sound migration policy and firm regulation of the labour markets. This session will explore the different challenges that countries such as Azerbaijan face when investigating and prosecuting trafficking in persons and forced labour, and when protecting trafficked persons and will look at good practices in order to improve prevention and prosecution of trafficking and identification, protection and assistance for trafficked persons. The session will focus both on the Government's and the civil society organization's role regarding the implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking, in promoting a victim-centred approach and in providing reliable information on the</p>



offenders, the victims, and the trafficking flows throughout the regions in order to achieve long-term successes in combating trafficking in human beings.

Moderator:

- **Lyce Doucet**, BBC World

Introductory remarks:

- **Aleya Hammad**, Executive Vice-President, End Human Trafficking Now

Speakers:

- **Mehriban Aliyeva**, First Lady of Azerbaijan (*to be confirmed*)
- **Charles Adams**, Partner-in-charge, AkinGump and EHTN Board Member: *Increasing the credibility of corporations through compliance*
- **Jean Baderschneider**, former Senior VP, Exxon Mobil and Board Member EHTN: *Adopting anti-trafficking agenda as a corporate cause*
- **Petre Roman**, Prime Minister of Romania (1989-1991) and Member of the Club de Madrid

Closing remarks:

- **Marianna Vardinoyannis**, President of Foundation for a Child and Family

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch

15.00 – 15.30

Closing Session and Wrap-up

Moderator:

- **Ismail Serageldin**, Director Library of Alexandria and Co-Chair of the Board of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center

Wrap –Up:

- **Kim Campbell**, Prime Minister of Canada (1993), Member of the Club de Madrid
- **Valdis Birkavs**, Prime Minister of Latvia (1993-1994) and Member of the Club de Madrid

Closing:

- **Jenny M. Shipley**, Prime Minister of New Zealand (1997-1999) and Vice- President of the Club de Madrid
- **Nazim Ibrahimov**, Minister of State, Committee for Diaspora, Republic of Azerbaijan

