

**Permanent Mission
of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the United Nations**



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**Statement by Mrs. Hijran Huseynova
Chairperson of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Issues
of the Republic of Azerbaijan
at the 53rd session
of the Commission on the Status of Women**

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

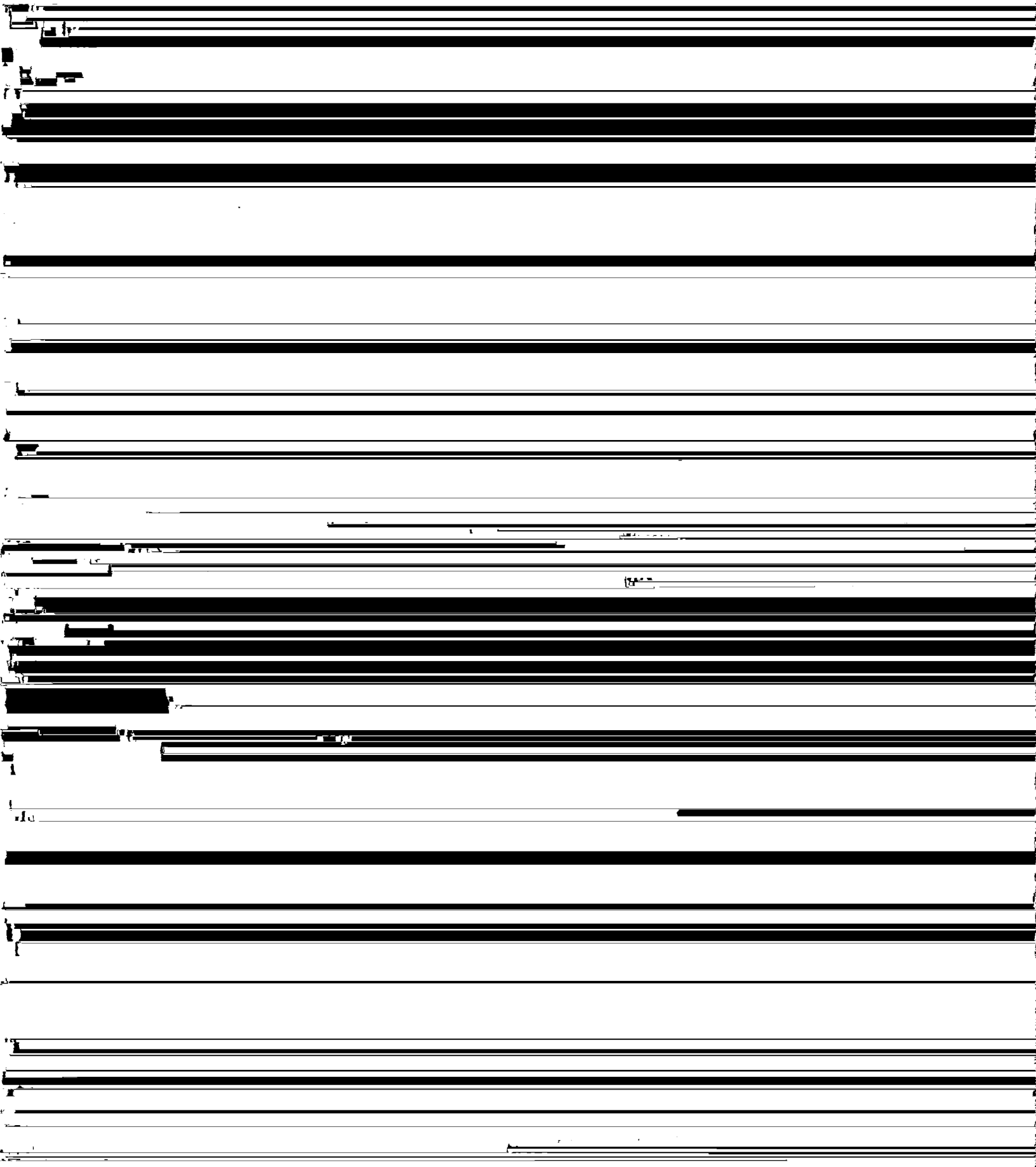
At the outset I would like to convey my thanks for the opportunity to present at this very important event the achievements attained and challenges faced by Azerbaijan in ensuring gender equality and the improvement of the status of women in all spheres.

... the development of women is a critical factor for

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In a country where women gained political rights in 1918, earlier than in many

by the at the forefront of all



in line with this, the Government of Azerbaijan has also adopted the State Program

on the Eradication of Poverty and Sustainable Development. According to this Program, the number of women in decision-making positions should considerably increase by 2015. To foster its implementation, we have held town hall meetings in all regions of Azerbaijan that were followed by a Third Congress of Azerbaijani Women last year. During that Congress we held an interactive dialogue with women from remote zones.

We also held thematic conferences for women professionals in the spheres of justice, arts and third sector. This was a good opportunity for discussions, interaction, networking and the exchanging of ideas between women of different ages, ethnicities and regions. There was the special address made by the President of Azerbaijan to the members of the Congress in which he expressed his support for women's activities and women's invaluable input in the development of our country.