

Expert: NAM Summit to strengthen Azerbaijan's foreign policy among international actors



By Abdul Kerimkhanov

NAM Summit will further strengthen Azerbaijan's foreign policy among international actors, Peter M. Tase, Scholar of International Affairs and author of various books on Azerbaijani Studies and Latin American Politics, said in an interview with Azernews.

"The 2019 Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit will further strengthen Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy and increase significantly the defense of Azerbaijan's sovereign territory and national strategy among

international actors and the world's largest democracies," Tase stated.

He noted that the NAM Summit is hosted in Baku, thanks to the great level of leadership in Europe, Latin America and Asia shown by the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev. He added that this organization is positioned as the most important platform of multilateral diplomacy.

"October 2019 will be remembered as a pivotal moment in the history of NAM and contemporary achievements of Azerbaijan in the fields of international politics, sustainable development, and economic diplomacy," he added.

Tase considers, the member countries of NAM can bolster their global presence and promote re-

gional economic projects as well as craft a strategic road map for a more peaceful world; they are part of a forum that promotes sustainable international development projects that generate great benefits to societies and predominant industrial sectors in Central Asia, the Pacific, Africa and Latin America.

"Azerbaijan is emerging once again as the best platform where key global leaders may gather to address the world's pressing challenges and tackle unresolved security and defense related matters," Tase commented.

He emphasized, Azerbaijan has keenly shaped the Agenda of International and Regional Geopolitical Priorities; the organization and hosting of

major Summits and Conferences in Baku is a testimony to the country's admirable economic growth; consolidated agriculture industry and cutting edge information technology research at the university level.

"The propensity of Azerbaijan towards economic growth and dynamic foreign policy makes the land of fire a leading partner and strategic actor in shaping the 21st Century priorities in the fields of development and international diplomatic matters," Tase concluded.

In turn, Geopolitical Analyst, Commentator and Columnist Maik Ayub Sumbal believes that Azerbaijan will play a vital role in the uplifting of NAM during its chairmanship era for the next three years.

Noting that Baku has been always a hub of regional and international activities, he expressed confidence that during the next three years the theme of the NAM will be highlighted more.

"Azerbaijan has a huge potential of active diplomacy around the world and it's a good chance for NAM to active under an umbrella," he concluded.

Uniting the countries that did not join any military-political blocs during the Cold War, the NAM was transformed into one of the important multilateral mechanisms. Today, the NAM is the second political platform after the UN, uniting in its ranks the biggest number of countries.

The representatives of 158 countries and international organizations participated in the summit held in Baku.

Azerbaijan will chair this structure in 2019-2022.

FM expresses concern over humanitarian situation in Somalia

POLITICS, FROM PAGE 1

Mammadyarov believes that as a fragile state, Somalia remains in dire need of massive help in all areas, notably, capacity building, state and institution building, employment creation, poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, national reconciliation, countering violent extremism and terrorism which still poses a grave danger to the country and the region. For Somalia to achieve a future of security, governance and governing institution have to remain focused and united and avoid unnecessary distractions, he noted.

"I would like to express our support to the Federal Government of Somalia in its efforts to overcome difficulties, to achieve reconciliation and to build a secure, stable, united, democratic and prosperous nation," he said.

Mammadyarov also hailed commended efforts of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and its Member States in contributing to achieving peace and national reconciliation in Somalia and mobilizing assistance for the urgent needs of people affected by the humanitarian crisis in this country.

The minister expressed concern over the humanitarian situation that continues to deteriorate in Somalia.

"Climate change is leading to frequent droughts in Somalia forcing people to leave their homes almost every two years. Azerbaijan responded to the appeals of the respective governments and international organizations to provide urgent aid aimed at addressing the humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa, including Somalia – the worst-affected country in the region," he emphasized.

Mammadyarov further informed

that the Eurasian Regional Centre of ICYF, OIC affiliated institution hosted in the capital of Azerbaijan in 2012 conducted a charity campaign which resulted in providing one-month food security for victims of the Somali drought with the support of Azerbaijani Government.

He went on to say that Azerbaijan's ADA University also provides fully covered scholarship education for young Somali professionals in the fields important for strengthening state-building.

"It is important that the international community continues supporting Somalia. At the same time, all parties must allow unimpeded humanitarian access and refrain from actions which threaten the safety of the local population and those assisting them. There is also a need to redouble efforts to find long-term solutions for refugees and internally displaced people in Somalia. Azerbaijan is ready to continue its support to those in need in Somalia and other countries of the region," the minister added.

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani chaired the event attended by OIC Undersecretary for Political Affairs Yousef al-Dobeay and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation of the Federal Republic of Somalia Ahmed Isse Awad along with representatives of various member states of OIC.

The meeting laid stress on the need to continue the support to Somalia to overcome the present challenges and extend necessary assistance to its development plans to be implemented.

Azerbaijan, Russia eye expanding economic cooperation

By Rasana Gasimova

Russia is one of Azerbaijan's main foreign trade partners. The country is the leader in the import of Azerbaijan's non-oil products and today about 50 percent of Russia's trade in the South Caucasus region accounts for Azerbaijan.

On October 29, Baku hosted an Azerbaijani-Russian business meeting with the support of Azerbaijan's Economy Ministry, the Export and Investment Promotion Foundation (AZPROMO).

The event brought together more than 60 entrepreneurs in the food industry, healthcare, banking, logistics, tourism and other areas. During the event, they were informed about reforms carried out in Azerbaijan aimed at improving the country's business and investment climate.

Participants were also informed about the work done on promotion of Azerbaijani products in foreign markets and increase of exports, promotion of the "Made in Azerbaijan" brand, presentations on the economic and trade potential, investment



opportunities of Azerbaijan and St. Petersburg.

During the event, the entrepreneurs discussed the expansion of existing relationships and the establishment of new business partnerships.

Note that Azerbaijan is one of the main economic partners of Russia among the CIS countries. Inter-regional cooperation plays an important role in the development of Russian-Azerbaijani trade and economic relations and the increase in

trade turnover.

About 700 companies with Russian capital are operating in Azerbaijan. So far, the value of investments by Russian companies in Azerbaijan amounted to \$4.7 billion, and the Azerbaijani investments in Russia stood at \$1.2 billion.

The trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Russia amounted to \$2.55 billion in 2018, which is 19.1 percent more than in 2017, according to Azerbaijan's State Statistics Committee. The share of

trade operations with Russia in 2018 accounted for 8.25 percent of the total foreign trade turnover of Azerbaijan.

Last year, Russia's exports to Azerbaijan were mainly food products and agricultural raw materials (\$422.1 million), machinery, equipment and vehicles (\$381.6 million), metals and products from them (\$315.9 million), wood and pulp-paper products (\$238.1 million) as well as chemical products and rubber (\$198 million).

In the reporting period, Georgia imported 122,827 tons of oil and oil products from Azerbaijan at \$67,726 million. Thus, the volume of imported oil and oil products increased by 4,439 tons or 3.7 percent.

As for electricity exports to Georgia, their cost amounted to \$40.9 million in January-September 2019. The volume of electricity imported by Georgia increased by 33.7 percent compared to the same period last year.

The value of electricity imported by a neighboring country from Azerbaijan increased by 24.5 percent. Georgia imported electricity from Azerbaijan at \$30.3 million in January-August 2018.

Last, Azerbaijan's electricity exports increased by 165.2 million kWh in comparison with 2017 (1.28 billion kWh), reaching almost 1.5 billion kWh. As much as 1.23 billion kWh of this amount was exported to Georgia.

Georgia is a key transit country for Azerbaijan, through which Azerbaijan's main pipelines for the supply of oil and gas to the West are laid. For instance, the Baku-Supsa and Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) oil pipelines pass through the neighboring country. Also, gas from the Shah Deniz field in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea is transported to Turkey through Georgia.

Gas exports to Georgia increase



By Leman Mammadova

Azerbaijan has increased the export of oil, gas and oil products to Georgia in the first nine months of 2019.

In particular, Georgia imported 1.2 million cubic meters of natural gas from Azerbaijan worth \$200.8 million in January-September

2019, the National Statistics Office of Georgia has reported.

The gas supplies from Azerbaijan to Georgia increased by 7 percent compared to the same period last year.

Azerbaijan is the main supplier of gas to Georgia. Today, Georgia receives natural gas from Azerbaijan through two sources. Thus, Georgia supplies the population and thermal power plants with gas purchased from SOCAR. In addition,

Georgia receives a transit share for the transportation of Azerbaijani gas to the world market.

SOCAR supplies gas through the Gazimhammad-Gazakh pipeline. In addition, Azerbaijani gas is supplied to Georgia from the Shah-Deniz field via the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum pipeline.

In 2018, Georgia imported 2.2 billion cubic meters of gas from Azerbaijan.

National gymnasts showed their best in Israel

SPORTS, FROM PAGE 1

The world's best gymnasts competed in this prestigious championship from 25 countries from all over Europe.

The acrobatic gymnastics discipline combines acrobatic elements with dance and ballet moves in teams of pairs, female trios and men's quartet. This combination places the acrobatics gymnastics among the most demanding sports, which require exceptional coordination, strength, flexibility and teamwork.

Notably, the First European Championships in men's artistic gymnastics was organized by the FIG in Frankfurt in 1955.

Nowadays, gymnastics has become a favorite and popular sport in Azerbaijan. National gymnasts mount the podium at significant

competitions.

Azerbaijan Gymnastics Federation (AGF), which was founded in 1956, has experienced revival since 2002 and the renewed federation lifted this popular sport to a new level. Currently, AGF comprises seven gymnastics disciplines recognized by the International Federation of Gymnastics (FIG).

The National Gymnastics Arena specialized in all six competitive gymnastics disciplines and hosted all large-scale competitions held in Baku from the day of its opening in 2014, in the spotlight of not only the gymnasts, willingly joining the training camp, but, all the sports fans from different countries of the world with its uniqueness.

The high level organization of the gymnastics events did not remain unnoticed.



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