

# REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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## ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

## DIRECTIONS AND PRINCIPLES OF AZERBAIJAN- UNESCO COOPERATION

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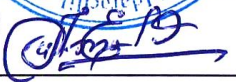
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## GENERAL CHARACTERISTIC OF THE RESEARCH

**Actuality of research and degree of its development.** As it is known, at the modern stage, international humanitarian relations are characterized by the globalization of various spheres of life. Dialogue between civilizations plays an imperative role in modern times. Without this, it is impossible to talk about the equality of rights of different value systems and the diversity of development models. On the one hand, globalization entails the mutual enrichment and integration of national cultures, and on the other hand, it poses a serious threat to the national cultures of countries and peoples. At the same time, the important format presented by global processes necessitates collective efforts to ensure intercultural dialogue.

As noted by the national leader Heydar Aliyev, *“We believe that all people, despite their differences, have the same historical roots and want to achieve the same goals in life. Despite the fact that the past and present of humanity have told us about terrible wars, we believe that its future is peace.*

*Following this belief and wishing peace to all people, I would like to state that we consider the proposal to adopt the UNESCO Declaration on the Right of People to Peace to be commendable and support the draft Declaration.”<sup>1</sup>*

From this perspective, the relevance of the dissertation topic can be justified as follows:

- It should be noted that at this time, international organizations act as a liaison between different cultures. The role of such international organizations is becoming increasingly stronger. Because in an era of rapid globalization, it is impossible to act unilaterally and alone to ensure intercultural dialogue. International organizations provide a very unique platform in this direction. From this point of view, it is very important to study the role of UNESCO in the process of creating and developing intercultural dialogue in more depth.

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<sup>1</sup> Əliyev, H. Ə. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: [46 cilddə] / H. Əliyev. – Bakı: Azərnaşr, – c. 12. – 2004, – s. 150.

- It should be noted that it is impossible to deeply analyze the mutual activities of participants in the processes taking place in the world without taking into account the humanitarian aspects. At the same time, global transformations of humanitarian interaction cannot be considered in isolation from political processes. It is in political processes that culture acts as a guide to global interests. In this regard, there is no need for additional arguments to justify the effective role of UNESCO. In fact, the mission carried out by UNESCO is of a completely political nature. Thus, the organization mobilizes member states to prevent the fragmentation of the world according to the signs of civilization. To achieve this goal, the development of intercultural dialogue, as well as international cultural-humanitarian cooperation, is required. The creation and development of intercultural dialogue is considered the most optimal way to eliminate contradictions between peoples and states. In this regard, the study of the problem of intercultural dialogue supported by UNESCO within the framework of the dissertation is quite relevant.

- As we know, ethnocultural diversity has been characteristic of almost all major political and social structures for millennia. Cultural homogenization began to show its signs only after the rapid development of capitalism. However, there was no talk of cultural monolith in the countries of Western Europe in the 19th century. Even later, it was impossible to provide it completely. In this sense, the issue of cultural diversity remains relevant in all historical periods.

- The development of international cultural-humanitarian cooperation occupies one of the central places in the foreign policy activities of the Republic of Azerbaijan. First of all, relying on the humanitarian factor to form and strengthen the positive image of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the international public consciousness ensures the achievement of very effective results. Strengthening the positive image of the state allows it to more reliably defend national interests, to more successfully implement political, humanitarian and economic projects. By continuously developing its foreign humanitarian policy, the Republic of Azerbaijan has been able to

ensure the effective implementation of numerous important projects. In order to have a more comprehensive understanding of the principles and mechanisms of implementation of the humanitarian policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, it is extremely important to conduct scientific research in the relevant direction.

- The development of cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and UNESCO brings significant dividends for our country. Thus, UNESCO has significant potential for the formation and strengthening of non-violent methods of influence. The Republic of Azerbaijan also seeks to ensure its national interests and implement its priorities by giving preference to non-violent means and principles. In this regard, the mentioned potential of UNESCO is also of great importance for the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Republic of Azerbaijan seeks to strengthen its role in world political processes by introducing its rich culture to the world and making maximum use of the opportunities of public diplomacy. As can be seen, a close study of various aspects of Azerbaijan-UNESCO mutual relations is of serious relevance for the modern stage.

- The logic of the development of world processes clearly shows that in the near future UNESCO will play a decisive role in the formation of a new character or image of international cultural-humanitarian relations. In fact, the signs of this decisive role are already being felt. This role consists in ensuring the mutual integration and mutual enrichment of world cultures and civilizations. In this regard, the Republic of Azerbaijan is interested in using these opportunities and potential of UNESCO. Because the Republic of Azerbaijan is actively engaged in the creation and development of intercultural and intercivilizational dialogue at the global level. The study of the role of cooperation with UNESCO in Azerbaijan's activities in this direction is also one of the points that prove the relevance of the dissertation topic.

- Cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and UNESCO is distinguished by its specific aspects. Thus, the Republic of Azerbaijan tries to make the most of the opportunities provided by cooperation with UNESCO in the direction of renewal of all spheres of life. At the same time, the Republic of Azerbaijan constantly

shows its interest in finding and developing qualitatively new vectors of cooperation with UNESCO. Because new directions of cooperation significantly increase the possibilities of more reliable protection of national interests. It should be borne in mind that at the modern stage, protection of interests and development of cooperation in the cultural-humanitarian sphere, nature, social-humanitarian sciences, communication and information are extremely important. By closely cooperating with UNESCO in the mentioned areas, the Republic of Azerbaijan also gains the opportunity to implement various programs and projects. Such programs and projects also allow to achieve real qualitative changes in the relevant directions. In this regard, it is important to carry out scientific research in the relevant direction in order to determine in which programs and projects the Republic of Azerbaijan participates within the framework of cooperation with UNESCO and their contribution.

- It should be noted that within the framework of cooperation with UNESCO, the Republic of Azerbaijan both implements its priorities and makes serious contributions to improving the quality of the organization's activities. Thus, UNESCO implements various projects aimed at ensuring international intercultural dialogue. These projects include organizing seminars, conferences, round tables, etc., as well as other practical steps. The Republic of Azerbaijan has already become a platform for intercultural dialogue. In addition, in accordance with the important mission of UNESCO, the Republic of Azerbaijan takes serious initiatives and practical steps towards protecting the cultural heritage of the peoples of the world. Identifying and revealing the elements that ensure the effectiveness of the activities of the Republic of Azerbaijan in this direction is one of the moments that indicate the importance of scientific research.

- In the modern world, the issue of protecting cultural heritage is considered an important component of both national identity and international law and humanitarian values. The falsification and destruction of material and cultural samples, historical monuments during armed conflicts is considered a threat not only to the culture of a state, but also to the culture of all mankind. The facts of the destruction, falsification, appropriation, and insult of historical

monuments in the liberated territories of Azerbaijan after the Second Karabakh War have further increased the relevance of this problem.

- UNESCO's attitude to these processes, its objective position, and the implementation of a fact-finding mission are of great importance in terms of assessing the effectiveness of international cultural heritage protection mechanisms. In this regard, the protection of the cultural heritage of Azerbaijan, as well as the restoration of historical monuments and cultural samples of Azerbaijan destroyed and falsified by Armenians during the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the restoration of justice in this direction, and the strengthening of cooperation with UNESCO are of political relevance.

The development of cooperation in the fields of science, education, culture and has preoccupied the world and necessitated the implementation of numerous scientific research works. The study of cultural relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and UNESCO is often carried out during the study of individual aspects of the country's humanitarian foreign policy and multiculturalism policy. In this regard, numerous scientific research works dedicated to the problem of cultural diversity have emerged in the Republic of Azerbaijan. For example, researchers S. Ahadova,<sup>2</sup> N. Abbasov,<sup>3</sup> F. Mammadov, K. Abdullayev,<sup>4</sup> E. Najafov,<sup>5</sup> E. Nasirov,<sup>6</sup> E. Ahmadov, N. Efendiyeva<sup>7</sup> and others have deeply studied the role of culture in society, various aspects of the problem of multiculturalism, and the

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<sup>2</sup> Əhadova, S.A. Mədəniyyətlərin qarşılıqlı əlaqələrində YUNESKO-nun rolu / S.A.Əhadova. – Bakı: Beynəlxalq kitab, – 2014. – 80 s.

<sup>3</sup> Abbasov, N. Mədəniyyət siyasəti və mənəvi dəyərlər / N.Abbasov. – Bakı, – 2009. – 444 s.

<sup>4</sup> Abdullayev, K. Ulu öndər Azərbaycan multikulturalizminin siyasi banisidir // Azərbaycan, – 2014, 23 iyul. – s. 7.

<sup>5</sup> Nəcəfov, E. Azərbaycan Respublikasının multikulturalizm siyasətinin onun xarici siyasətinə təsiri // Strateji təhlil, – 2016, № 1-2 (15-16), – s. 35-42.

<sup>6</sup> Nəsirov, E. Heydər Əliyev və Azərbaycanda multikulturalizm siyasəti: varislik, novatorluq: [Elektron resurs] / URL: <http://www.xalqqazeti.com/az/news/politics/71215>

<sup>7</sup> Əfəndiyeva, N. Azərbaycanlı özünüdərk və özünüidentifikasiyanın kulturoloji-fəlsəfi problemləri qloballaşma kontekstində: / kulturologiya elmləri doktoru dis. avtoreferatı. / – Bakı, ADMIU, 2008. – 48 s.

international humanitarian relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Separately, it is possible to find a number of studies and scientific works related to the state of cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and UNESCO.

In her scientific research on the topic "The Role of UNESCO in the International Relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan", A.R. Farmanova studied the tasks and directions of UNESCO's activities, the role of cooperation with UNESCO in expanding Azerbaijan's cultural relations and delivering its cultural heritage to the world, the stages of development of relations, the activities of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in this field, and Azerbaijan's initiatives in the field of inter-civilizational and inter-cultural dialogue<sup>8</sup>.

In the abstract of H. N. Mammadov, which was the result of scientific research on the cultural relations of Azerbaijan with the countries of Eastern Europe, the structures that played an important role in establishing these relations were discussed, including the role of the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO and the Heydar Aliyev Foundation. The author noted the role of UNESCO in the development of cultural relations with the countries of Eastern Europe, and examined the holding of anniversaries of prominent Azerbaijani literary and cultural figures - Mahammad Fuzuli, Gara Garayev, "Kitabi-Dade Gorgud" within the framework of the organization, etc. issues<sup>9</sup>.

The book "The Role of UNESCO in the Interrelations of Cultures" prepared by researcher S. Ahadova provides information on the directions of UNESCO's activities, especially its role in ensuring and developing international intercultural dialogue. Separate aspects of the experience gained as a result of cooperation within the framework of UNESCO are analyzed, and the impact of this experience on the development of global intercultural dialogue is

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<sup>8</sup> Fərmanova, A. R. Azərbaycan Respublikasının beynəlxalq əlaqələrində YUNESKO-nun rolu: / siyasi elmlər üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dis. – Bakı, 2016. – 153 s.

<sup>9</sup> Məmmədov, H. N. Azərbaycan Respublikası ilə Şərqi Avropa ölkələri arasında mədəni əlaqələr (1991-2008-ci illər): / tarix üzrə elmlər doktoru dis. avtoreferatı. / – Bakı, 2013. – 53 s.

assessed. Also, discussions were held on the current state of humanitarian relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, specifically, the emergence, directions and development of cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and UNESCO.

At the same time, researcher Sevda Aliyeva in her work "The Republic of Azerbaijan in Global Cultural Processes" extensively studied the participation of the Republic of Azerbaijan in intercultural dialogue in the modern era, the role of UNESCO-Azerbaijan relations in the development of intercultural cooperation in the world. The work extensively analyzes UNESCO's policy of protecting cultural diversity and supporting national cultures, Azerbaijan-UNESCO relations in the context of dialogue of cultures and protection of national cultural diversity<sup>10</sup>.

Researcher Namig Abbasov's work entitled "Cultural policy and moral values" discusses the essence, principles and other aspects of the cultural policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The nature of the concept of cultural policy is comprehensively explained in the book by taking a general theoretical approach. Also, the role of the cultural policy implemented by the Republic of Azerbaijan in protecting national and moral values and promoting them in the world is being analyzed. The role of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the system of international cultural relations has also been in the center of attention. One of the main characteristic aspects of his work is that it provides extensive information about the creation, essence, mission, directions and principles of UNESCO. Analyzing Azerbaijan-UNESCO cooperation is one of the aspects that determine the importance of the book for relevant studies. It should be noted that in the author's other works, extensive analyzes were made on cultural policy, moral values, and the moral factor in Azerbaijan's foreign policy.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Əliyeva, S.A. Azərbaycan Respublikası qlobal mədəni proseslərdə/ S.A.Əliyeva. – Bakı: Savad, – 2024. – 244 s.

<sup>11</sup> Abbasov, N. Mədəniyyət siyasəti və mənəvi dəyərlərin kulturoloji mahiyyəti // – Bakı, Mədəniyyət dünyası, – 2006. VIII buraxılış. – s. 97-104; Abbasov, N. Türk dünyasının mədəni inteqrasiyası məsələləri haqqında // – Bakı, Mədəniyyət dünyası, – 2002. IV buraxılış. – s. 146-148; Abbasov, N. Estetik mədəniyyət cəmiyyətin ümumi mədəniyyətinin bir hissəsi kimi // – Bakı, Mədəniyyət dünyası, – 2004. VIII buraxılış. – s. 107-109.

M. J. Gasimli drew attention to the history of Azerbaijan's international cultural relations during the USSR, the characteristics of these relations, and cooperation in the cultural and humanitarian fields with leading Western states, as well as countries included in the socialist camp. M. J. Gasimli's work, written on the basis of authoritative archival documents, was important in terms of studying the international cultural relations of the Azerbaijan SSR in 1946-1990<sup>12</sup>.

K. Abdullayev conducted extensive research on Azerbaijani multiculturalism, and these issues were included in his numerous works and books. The political direction implemented in the field of protection and development of the multicultural traditions of the Azerbaijani people under the leadership of national leader Heydar Aliyev is being successfully developed by his worthy successor President Ilham Aliyev at a new stage. President Ilham Aliyev, who values multiculturalism as the state policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the way of life of our people, attaches special importance to cooperation with influential international organizations in the implementation of this policy. He always mentions the importance of our country joining the conventions on the protection of the rights and freedoms of national minorities accepted by these organizations. It is as a result of this political line that our country joined the UNESCO Convention "On the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Self-Expressions" by the law dated November 26, 2009 on the instructions of the President of Azerbaijan<sup>13</sup>.

E. Najafov has conducted in-depth research on different aspects of multiculturalism policy in Azerbaijan. In general, the essence of multiculturalism, features of the Azerbaijani model of

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<sup>12</sup> ГАСЫМЛЫ, М. ДЖ. Азербайджан в международных культурных связях (1946-1991 гг.) / М. Дж. Гасымлы. – Тбилиси: изд. Артанучи, – 2005.– 300 с.

<sup>13</sup> Abdullayev, K. Ulu öndər Azərbaycan multikulturalizminin siyasi banisidir // Aərbaycan, – 2014, 23 iyul. – s. 7.

multiculturalism, international cultural relations, etc. issues were included in the works of E. Najafov.<sup>14</sup>

H. Rajabli's work on the UN's specialized agencies examines the history of UNESCO's establishment, its mission, main goals and objectives, and examines the institution's position in international relations as an important intergovernmental organization specializing in the world's influential science, education and cultural issues.<sup>15</sup>

Apart from the mentioned, numerous works have been written on Azerbaijan-UNESCO cooperation. For example, the work "Azerbaijan-UNESCO: Partnership Based on Human Rights", which is a product of collective labor, talks about the activities of UNESCO and analyzes the human rights factor in Azerbaijan-UNESCO cooperation.<sup>16</sup>

It should be noted that in the post-Soviet space, as well as in Russia, it is possible to find numerous works on the role of UNESCO in modern humanitarian relations. Simply put, of course, since UNESCO-Azerbaijani relations are not specifically mentioned in foreign literature, it is enough to give general information. For example, in the works of Russian researchers F. Burlatsky,<sup>17</sup> A. Grachev,<sup>18</sup> I. Ilinsky,<sup>19</sup> V. Lomeyko, K. Dolgov,<sup>20</sup> T. Zonova<sup>21</sup> and

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<sup>14</sup> Nəcəfov, E. Azərbaycan Respublikasının multikulturalizm siyasətinin onun xarici siyasətinə təsiri // Strateji təhlil, – 2016, № 1-2 (15-16), – s. 35-42.

<sup>15</sup> Rəcəbli, H. M. BMT-nin ixtisaslaşmış qurumları / H. M. Rəcəbli. – Bakı: Azərbaycan, – 2003. – 256 s.

<sup>16</sup> Azərbaycan-YUNESKO: İnsan Hüquqlarına Əsaslanan Tərəfdaşlıq // – YUNESKO, – 2014. – 287 s.

<sup>17</sup> Бурлацкий, Ф.М. Женева: вчера, сегодня, завтра / Ф.М.Бурлацкий. – Москва: Мысль, – 1986. – 160 с.; Бурлацкий, Ф.М. Вожди и советники. Театральные кино- и телеопыты / Ф.М.Бурлацкий. – Москва: Собрание, – 2008. – 264 с.

<sup>18</sup> Грачев, А.С. Встреча цивилизаций: конфликт или диалог / А.С.Грачев, В.Б.Ломейко. – Париж, – 1996.

<sup>19</sup> Ильинский, И.М. ЮНЕСКО: Учиться жить вместе. Сборник материалов «Болонский процесс: взгляд на проблему» / сост. Новак И.А. – Москва: Московский гуманитарный университет, – 2004.

<sup>20</sup> Долгов, К.М. Философские измерения политики, дипломатии и культуры // – Москва: Научная книга, Культура и современность, – 2007. Том IV.

<sup>21</sup> Зонова, Т.В. Современная модель дипломатии: истоки становления и перспективы развития / Т.В.Зонова. – Москва: РОССПЭН, – 2003. – 456 с.

others, the activity of UNESCO and its role in the modern world are considered from the perspective of cultural philosophy.

Of course, there are richer sources in Western science about cultural diplomacy, the role and place of UNESCO in the modern world. Western researchers have achieved serious results in the field of the role of the cultural factor in political processes, the essence of the intercultural dialogue and the opportunities for influence, and at the same time, a comprehensive study of all directions of UNESCO's activities. Among such researchers, J.Nye,<sup>22</sup> J.Kolasa,<sup>23</sup> S.Huntington,<sup>24</sup> L.Harrison<sup>25</sup> and others should be mentioned.

The use of a number of sources was useful in the development of the dissertation. The sources used in the study of the topic can be grouped as follows:

1) Official documents belong to the first group of sources. Conventions of UNESCO and other state structures related to education, science and cultural heritage, documents forming the legal and normative basis of the relations signed between the parties, orders of the head of state, speeches and speeches of officials belong to the first group of documents.

In analyzing the speeches and speeches of the National Leader of the Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev and the Head of State Ilham Aliyev regarding Azerbaijan-UNESCO relations, the normative and legal basis of the relations between Azerbaijan and UNESCO, meetings held between officials and speeches and speeches, the "Foreign Policy of Azerbaijan: Collection of Documents" compiled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan (MFA) was useful both in terms of

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<sup>22</sup> Joseph, S. Nye. *The Powers to Lead: Soft, Hard, and Smart* / – New York: Simon and Schuster, – 2008.

<sup>23</sup> Kolasa, Jan. *International Intellectual Cooperation. The League Experience and the beginning of UNESCO* / Jan Kolasa. – Wroclaw, – 1962.

<sup>24</sup> Samuel, P. Huntington. *Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress.* / Samuel P.Huntington. – New York: Basic Books, – 2000.

<sup>25</sup> Laurence, E. Hurrison; Mark Leonard, Catherine Stead, Conrad Smewing. *Public Diplomacy* // – London: The Foreign Policy Centre, – 2002.

methodology and source base.<sup>26</sup> At the same time, the speeches and speeches of state officials were reflected in the book "Our Independence is Eternal", which collects the speeches, speeches and meetings of the National Leader Heydar Aliyev.<sup>27</sup>

The meetings and statements of the head of state İlham Aliyev with the UNESCO delegation were reflected in the multivolume "Development is our goal".<sup>28</sup> The book was useful in terms of analyzing relations and as a primary source.

The book "Mehriban Aliyeva: Through the Paths of Progress and Rise", which reflects the activities of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in the field of developing UNESCO-Azerbaijan relations, Mehriban Aliyeva's cooperation with the organization in the fields of education, culture, and art, and her official meetings and events, was important in conducting the research.<sup>29</sup>

2) Documents of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the State Archive of the Republic of Azerbaijan were useful in studying the problem. These documents were useful in terms of studying mutual correspondence, education, and cultural relations between the parties.

3) Another group of sources consists of newspapers, magazines, and electronic information resources published on the topic. In 2017, a special issue of the IRS magazine dedicated to the 25th anniversary of Azerbaijan's membership in UNESCO was published. The magazine contained information covering various aspects of Azerbaijan-UNESCO relations. The magazine reflected in a foreign language the rich material and cultural examples of Azerbaijan, such as the "Gobustan rock paintings", the historical

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<sup>26</sup> Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti: sənədlər məcmuəsi. 2004 I hissə / AR XİN, Bakı: GARİSMA MMC, – 2009. – 816 s.; 2008 I hissə / AR XİN, Bakı: GARİSMA MMC, – 2009. – 656 s.

<sup>27</sup> Əliyev, H. Ə. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: [46 cilddə] / H. Əliyev. – Bakı: Azər nəşr, – c. 12. – 2004. – 432 s.; c. 8. – 1998. – 488 s.

<sup>28</sup> Əliyev, İ. H. İnkişaf – məqsədimizdir: [138 cilddə] / İ. Əliyev. – Bakı: Azər nəşr, – c. 42. – 2017. – 400 s.; c. 109. – 2021. – 392 s.

<sup>29</sup> Mehriban Əliyeva: tərəqqi və yüksəliş yolları ilə: [2 cilddə] / elmi red. A. Naxçıvanlı. – Bakı: c. 2. – 2014. – 388 s.

monument of "Icheri Sheher", various craft regions, musical art, Novruz customs, etc.<sup>30</sup>

The materials published in the newspapers "Azerbaijan", "Xalq Qazeti" and "Respublika" were useful in the study of the topic.

Electronic information resources were used in writing the dissertation. Electronic information resources of the official websites of the United Nations (UN), UNESCO, the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and the State Registry of Legal Acts of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Azerbaijan were important in studying various aspects of relations and regulatory and legal documents.

**The object and subject of the research.** The object of the study is the cooperative relations formed between Azerbaijan and UNESCO from the restoration of state independence to the modern stage. The principles, directions of Azerbaijan-UNESCO cooperation and the features, methods and means of implementing these relations are the subject of the study.

**Research goals and objectives.** The main objective of the study is to comprehensively study the Azerbaijan-UNESCO cooperation and identify the factors that determine the effectiveness of this cooperation. In accordance with the set goal, the following tasks were performed:

- To substantiate the factors that led to the establishment of UNESCO and the importance of the organization's mission, and to conduct more in-depth analyses around its main areas of activity;
- To conduct a more in-depth analysis of the structure and main areas of activity of UNESCO;
- To determine the importance of UNESCO as a means of implementing foreign cultural policy;

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<sup>30</sup> Azərbaycanın UNESCO-ya üzv olmasının 25 illiyinə həsr edilmiş İRS jurnalının xüsusi buraxılışı: [Elektron resurs] / URL: [https://www.unesco.az/storage/documents/Heritage\\_ENG\\_FR\\_2016.pdf](https://www.unesco.az/storage/documents/Heritage_ENG_FR_2016.pdf)

- Analysis of the main principles and priorities of Azerbaijan's humanitarian foreign policy and study of the characteristics of its participants;

- To determine the place of UNESCO in the humanitarian policy of Azerbaijan;

- To conduct an analysis of the stages of establishment and development of relations between Azerbaijan and UNESCO;

- To determine the current status of Azerbaijan-UNESCO cooperation in the fields of science, education, culture and the protection of cultural heritage;

- To substantiate the place and role of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in Azerbaijan-UNESCO cooperation;

- To investigate the causes of the problems that occurred in Azerbaijan-UNESCO relations after the Second Karabakh War.

**Research methods.** The methodological basis of the dissertation is the analysis of facts and materials in the sources and literature involved in the research. During the research, comparative analysis, systematic approach, analysis, content analysis, institutional analysis and generalization methods were used from historical analysis and political analysis methods.

Various scientific methods were used to ensure a systematic approach to the topic. The historical analysis method was effective in studying the stages of Azerbaijan-UNESCO relations and the dynamics of development in the cultural and humanitarian fields. Using the comparative analysis method, Azerbaijan's position was compared with the experience of international organizations, and approaches to the restoration of cultural heritage in the period after the Second Karabakh War were evaluated.

The document analysis method was used to study UNESCO's official reports, Azerbaijani state documents, and treaties and agreements signed between the parties. At the same time, descriptive and analytical methods were used to summarize the facts about the destruction or falsification of monuments. In the research work, speeches and speeches of heads of state and other officials were analyzed based on the content analysis method. Based on this method, the main directions of Azerbaijan's foreign policy and its

position in international relations were studied. The impact of UN and UNESCO decisions and documents on state policy was investigated using the institutional analysis method. The generalization method was used to systematize the materials collected during the research process and obtain final results.

**The main provisions of the defense are:**

1. An effective system of cooperation has been established between Azerbaijan and UNESCO in the main areas of the organization's activities - science, education and culture. However, since some of UNESCO's proposals in the field of science and education are based on general principles, certain difficulties have arisen in their application to the Azerbaijani education system.

2. The Republic of Azerbaijan, by continuously expanding its cooperation with UNESCO, demonstrates serious activity in promoting the importance of intercultural dialogue.

3. Although UNESCO's activities in the cultural and humanitarian field are humanitarian in nature, they act as an effective mechanism for implementing a political mission.

4. The Heydar Aliyev Foundation plays a very effective role in the establishment and development of humanitarian relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

5. UNESCO-Azerbaijan cooperation is of strategic importance, first and foremost, in terms of preventing the appropriation of Azerbaijan's national cultural heritage.

6. After the Second Karabakh War, in cooperation with UNESCO, the problem of strengthening mechanisms for the objective assessment and monitoring of destroyed, appropriated and falsified cultural heritage samples based on the facts presented by the Azerbaijani side emerged.

7. In cooperation with UNESCO, Azerbaijan gives priority to relations free from double standards, Islamophobia and discrimination.

**Scientific innovation of the research.** The scientific novelty of the dissertation is reflected in a number of provisions arising from a comprehensive study of the political, cultural, and humanitarian aspects of Azerbaijan-UNESCO cooperation:

- By collecting, systematizing, and analyzing reliable sources and literature, for the first time in Azerbaijani political science, Azerbaijan-UNESCO relations have been comprehensively studied within the chronological framework from the restoration of state independence to 2023-2024;

- UNESCO's role in modern international relations, its directions of activity, the principles it attaches importance to in cooperation with states, and its role as a foreign policy tool were examined, and it was concluded that UNESCO's potential to apply soft power is important for Azerbaijan. The Republic of Azerbaijan can form its influence opportunities on the basis of this potential in order to ensure its national interests;

- UNESCO's mission has been examined, and it has been concluded that the organization actually carries a political mission rather than a humanitarian one. In this case, the organization simply uses cultural-humanitarian factors as a mechanism;

- The study of the role of UNESCO in intercultural dialogue shows that although the globalization process significantly expands the opportunities for cultural dialogue, it complicates the issue of maintaining national cultural identity;

- It is proven that Azerbaijan-UNESCO cooperation, along with opening up additional opportunities for the protection of national cultural heritage, strengthens its political potential in a number of directions.

- The dissertation examined the contractual and legal basis of UNESCO-Azerbaijan relations, and showed that the signed documents are an important basis for deepening cooperation;

- It has been proven that Azerbaijan-UNESCO cooperation not only protects national cultural heritage, but also creates conditions for strengthening the state's political position in the international arena;

- It has been proven that the Heydar Aliyev Foundation is the non-governmental organization most closely involved in the implementation of UNESCO's priorities at the international level, and its impact on the protection of cultural heritage, the promotion of

educational projects, and international humanitarian initiatives in cooperation with UNESCO has been scientifically studied;

- A study of cooperation between Azerbaijan and UNESCO in the field of education shows that since some of the proposals put forward by the organization are of a universal nature, adaptation, financial and institutional difficulties have arisen in the process of their implementation in the national education system;

- In the dissertation work, for the first time, new trends that emerged in Azerbaijan-UNESCO relations after the Second Karabakh War, UNESCO's inadequate response to the destruction and falsification of material and cultural monuments of the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan during the occupation by Armenia, practical steps taken by Azerbaijan in the field of cultural heritage protection and lack of support from UNESCO, and the organization's discriminatory policy and double standards in this direction were studied. The violation of UNESCO's principles of objectivity and its impact on the prospects of cooperation were assessed with a new approach.

**Theoretical and practical significance of research.** İşin nəticələrindən mədəni-humanitar siyasətin mahiyyəti, əlamətləri, həyata keçirilməsi prinsipləri, eyni zamanda, Azərbaycan – UNESCO əməkdaşlığının vəziyyəti və perspektivləri haqqında təsəvvürləri formalaşdırmaq üçün istifadə etmək olar. Bundan başqa, oxşar problemlər ətrafında elmi-tədqiqat işləri aparan zaman da dissertasiyadan nəzəri mənbə kimi faydalanmaq mümkündür.

Tədqiqat işinin praktiki əhəmiyyəti ondan ibarətdir ki, mədəni müxtəlifliyin, multikultural dəyərlərin qorunması, humanitar xarici siyasətin səmərəliliyinin artırılması üçün fəaliyyət strategiyasını formalaşdıran zaman əldə olunmuş nəticələrə istinad oluna bilər. Bundan başqa, tədqiqatın əsas müddəalarını tədrisdə, yeni tədqiqatlarda istifadə etmək olar.

**Approbation and application of the research.** The main scientific propositions and results put forward in the dissertation are reflected in the author's scientific articles published in Azerbaijan and abroad, recommended by the Higher Attestation Commission, and in his reports at various scientific-practical conferences.

**The name of the institution where the dissertation work was completed.** The dissertation work was completed at the International Relations Department of Baku Slavic University.

**Structure and scope of work.** Dissertation work consists of introduction, three chapters, conclusion and list of used literature. Introduction – (27639 characters), Chapter I–(59477characters), Chapter II – (115214 characters), Chapter III – (72238 characters), conclusion – (12388 characters), 286.956 characters.

## **THE MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION**

In the introduction of the dissertation, the relevance of the topic was substantiated in separate paragraphs, the attitude to the existing literature on the topic of the dissertation was expressed, and the degree of development was analyzed. The introduction also defined the goals and objectives of the research, indicated its scientific novelty, theoretical and methodological foundations, theoretical and practical significance, and approval.

The first chapter of the dissertation is entitled “**The Place and Role of UNESCO in the Modern System of International Cultural and Humanitarian Relations**”. The first paragraph of this chapter, entitled “**Factors for the Creation and Mission of UNESCO**”, discusses the factors that necessitated the creation of the organization. It is noted that in 1942, during the Second World War, a conference of education ministers of European countries was held. At that time, the restoration of the education system in the event of peace was in the spotlight. In a short time, the project began to gain global importance. The desire of a number of states, including the United States, to participate in this conference showed that science, education, and culture were the main guarantors of peace and security. One of the points proving this was that in November 1945, in the first year after the end of the war, a conference was held in London on the establishment of an educational and cultural organization. 44 countries of the world participated in the work of the conference. The participating representatives unanimously supported

the idea of creating an organization that would restore world culture. The newly created organization was supposed to ensure the intellectual and spiritual solidarity of humanity. At that time, one of the main goals was to prevent a new war.<sup>31</sup> Thus, based on the study, it can be concluded that political and economic agreements alone are not enough to meet the real needs and priorities of peoples. A credible peace can be achieved on the basis of dialogue and mutual understanding. In this regard, intellectual and spiritual human solidarity plays a very effective role. It is no coincidence that UNESCO in this context has paid attention to the issue of forming scientific and educational tools for building the future of citizens.

Above all, UNESCO cares about ensuring that every child, every citizen has access to quality education. One of the points identified as a result of the research is UNESCO's tactic of ensuring the equality of cultures. Mutual understanding, dialogue, are considered one of the most effective ways to prevent future conflicts and contradictions. After the Second World War, supporting such ideas became a necessity.

In the second paragraph of the first chapter, entitled “**The main directions and principles of UNESCO’s activities**”, the separate directions and principles of the organization’s activities are analyzed. UNESCO is the largest specialized institution in the UN system. This also shows that the most optimal way to protect the world’s cultural heritage, integrate science and education, and ensure international peace and security is cooperation within the framework of UNESCO. The main goal of the organization is to implement international cooperation on the basis of the principles enshrined in the UN and its charter. While international cooperation for the UN concerns the security sphere, for UNESCO it concerns the fields of education, social and natural sciences, culture and information. In its multifaceted activities, UNESCO is engaged in protecting the rights and freedoms of individuals and peoples, regardless of ideological, political, ethnic, and religious diversity. All its humanitarian and educational activities are directed precisely in this direction. The

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<sup>31</sup> UNESCO’s History: [Electronic resource] / URL: <https://www.unesco.org/en/brief>

main idea of the UNESCO Charter is to form the ideas of peace in the minds of people. Taking into account the rapidly evolving changes, UNESCO is developing new forms of participation in the implementation of the ideas of peace. New forms of participation of partners are complemented by the concepts of world culture and democracy. The organization's operating principles and motto are also closely aligned. UNESCO's main motto is "think globally, act locally."<sup>32</sup>

The elimination of illiteracy, the development of the natural and social/human sciences, and the protection of human rights, cultural heritage, universal values, and the ecological environment are among the main spheres of UNESCO's activity.

The third paragraph of the first chapter is called **“UNESCO as a means of implementing foreign cultural policy”**. This paragraph substantiates that in the modern information society, culture plays a decisive role in almost all areas, including the economic sphere. From this point of view, the deprivation of culture from support may lead to the emergence of a number of serious problems in the near and distant future.<sup>33</sup>

The study shows that in the modern globalized world, the importance of UNESCO as a coordinator and international regulator of activities aimed at the protection of culture and cultural heritage is continuously increasing.

The priorities of UNESCO's regional policy are the development and implementation of programs that ensure the close participation of citizens and organizations in cultural preservation. The issue of implementing a specific policy as an important part of the general cultural policy in the field of heritage is also relevant. The purpose of creating the UNESCO World Heritage List is to identify, protect and promote the world's significant natural and cultural heritage, and to develop international cooperation in this area. The organization plays a strategic role in the implementation of the

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<sup>32</sup> ЮНЕСКО. Цели, структура, деятельность. Хроника, факты, цифры // – Москва, – 2002. – с. 22.

<sup>33</sup> Лихачев Д.С. Экология культуры // – Ленинград, Избранные работы, – 1987. Т. 3. Л. – с. 3.

foreign policy of member states. UNESCO's projects, programs and initiatives create conditions for strengthening the diplomatic position of member states and their participation in multilateral cooperation platforms.

The second chapter of the dissertation is entitled **“Cultural-humanitarian directions in the foreign policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan and UNESCO”**. In the subchapter of this chapter entitled **“Azerbaijan’s humanitarian foreign policy and UNESCO: principles and priorities”**, it is shown that the establishment and development of relations with UNESCO in Azerbaijan’s foreign humanitarian policy is connected with a number of important factors. The most important of these factors is the significant increase in the role and mission of UNESCO in a rapidly globalizing world. Azerbaijan also approaches cooperation with UNESCO as one of the most effective means in the field of protection of cultural rights.

Azerbaijan-UNESCO relations are also based on the principles of international law. The principles of international law are a priority in various areas of mutual relations. Since the first years of independence, the Republic of Azerbaijan has considered the protection of national, as well as human interests, a priority in close relations with international organizations.<sup>34</sup>

The development of cooperation with UNESCO is based on Azerbaijan’s tolerant approach to the cultural values of the peoples of the world. Successful relations in the fields of science, education and culture allow for the establishment of constructive cooperation in other areas. The Republic of Azerbaijan has played an effective role in strengthening the dialogue between Christian and Islamic religions within the framework of UNESCO. Azerbaijan has played a close role in the expansion of cooperation between the Turkic peoples within the framework of the organization, which has become a sustainable one. It is necessary to separately mention the role of the

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<sup>34</sup> Dünyada milli-mədəni müxtəlifliyin qorunması kontekstində: Azərbaycan-UNESCO əlaqələri // BMT BM 57-ci sessiyası. A/57/249 sayılı qətnamə, 20 dekabr 2002-ci il: [Elektron resurs] / URL: <https://mehribanaliyeva.preslib.az/media-54d418f4ef.html>

Republic of Azerbaijan in establishing and developing relations between the International Organization of Turkic Culture and UNESCO.<sup>35</sup> The Republic of Azerbaijan makes a great contribution to the development of cultural and humanitarian cooperation within the framework of the UN, the Alliance of Civilizations, UNESCO, ISESCO, OSCE, the Council of Europe, the CIS and other international organizations.

The second paragraph of the second chapter, entitled **“Stages of establishment and development of relations between Azerbaijan and UNESCO”**, shows that the Republic of Azerbaijan, in addition to closely participating in the process of developing global intercultural dialogue, often acts as an initiator. Against the background of all this, the expansion of cultural relations and the preservation of national culture play the main driving element of multidirectional activity within the framework of international organizations in relevant directions. The preservation of national culture constitutes an important direction of the state policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Republic of Azerbaijan takes into account the existing advanced international experience in cultural policy. It is precisely in order to assimilate such experience that it is necessary to cooperate within the framework of a specialized organization such as UNESCO.<sup>36</sup>

Cooperation between UNESCO and the Republic of Azerbaijan began in 1992. On July 3, 1992, the Republic of Azerbaijan was admitted to UNESCO. Thus, the Republic of Azerbaijan began to participate in the system of international cultural cooperation. Cooperation with UNESCO implied the establishment of a national commission. The main goal was to coordinate the activities of the organization with national structures operating in the fields of science, education and culture. The establishment of a

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<sup>35</sup> Тюркоязычные страны действуют сообща в рамках ЮНЕСКО: [Электронный ресурс] / URL: <https://yenicag.ru/tyurko-yazychnye-strany-deystvuyut-soobshh/302699/>

<sup>36</sup> Azərbaycanca yeni mədəniyyət siyasətinin formalaşdırılmasına yardım. “Simurq” Azərbaycan mədəniyyət Assosiasiyası // – Bakı: Sabah, – 2001. – s. 24

national commission was also a real indicator of the member state's intention to cooperate constructively and effectively with UNESCO. Therefore, in February 1994, Great Leader Heydar Aliyev signed an Order on the establishment of a National Commission under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.<sup>37</sup>

Research shows that the Republic of Azerbaijan is represented in all areas of activity covering the goals set out in the UNESCO Charter. Thanks to cooperation with UNESCO, the Republic of Azerbaijan has become one of the most reliable and active elements of the international intellectual and humanistic cooperation system.

Azerbaijan gives priority to cooperation with UNESCO in the direction of protecting and promoting tangible and cultural heritage. Thus, the historical reserves of Gobustan and Icheri Sheher were included in the organization's World Heritage List. In July 2019, at the 43rd session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee held in Baku, a decision was made to include the historical part of the city of Sheki and the Sheki Khan Palace on the UNESCO World Heritage List.<sup>38</sup>

Cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and UNESCO also pays attention to political aspects. For example, the inclusion of the Karabakh horse game “Chovgan” on the UNESCO World Intangible Cultural Heritage List was not only a success of Azerbaijan’s foreign policy activities, but also had great political significance. It can be concluded that Azerbaijan-UNESCO relations were of a sustainable nature in the political and strategic directions, as well as in the humanitarian sphere.

The third paragraph of the second chapter of the dissertation is entitled **“The Place and Role of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in Azerbaijan-UNESCO Cooperation”**. This paragraph substantiates that the Heydar Aliyev Foundation has organized

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<sup>37</sup> YUNESKO üzrə Azərbaycan Respublikasının Milli Komissiyası ilə bağlı əlavə tədbirlər haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin Sərəncamı: [Elektron resurs] / 15 sentyabr 2005-ci il. URL: <https://e-qanun.az/framework/10729>.

<sup>38</sup> UNESCO ilə əməkdaşlıq Azərbaycanın xarici siyasətində əsas istiqamətlərdən birini təşkil edir // Azərbaycan. – 2017, 26 dekabr. – № 286. – s. 12.

various seminars and conferences both within the country and abroad in order to promote national culture. Within the framework of such events, a wide place was given to the promotion of intercultural dialogue. For example, the Gabala International Music Festival was one of the successful steps taken by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in terms of developing intercultural dialogue, promoting Azerbaijani music, and ensuring integration between world musical cultures.

Special projects aimed at promoting Azerbaijan at the international level have also been implemented by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation. In this regard, it is worth mentioning the project “Flight to Baku. Contemporary Azerbaijani Art”. This exhibition, organized in the capitals of various countries of the world, has played a very effective role in expanding international perceptions of Azerbaijan and its cultural values.<sup>39</sup> The Heydar Aliyev Foundation, in close cooperation with UNESCO, has implemented complex measures to protect not only national cultural monuments, but also the cultural heritage of the peoples of the world.

The contractual-legal basis of relations between the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and UNESCO, the normative basis of relations has been quite rich. After the signing of the agreement on the implementation of the project on the development of vocational education in Azerbaijan between UNESCO, the Government of Azerbaijan and the Heydar Aliyev Foundation on June 18, 2007, new trends in the development of cooperation were formed. On March 19, 2009, an agreement was signed between the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and UNESCO on achieving strategic goals for the protection of intangible cultural heritage.<sup>40</sup>

The Heydar Aliyev Foundation has implemented continuous projects in the development of Azerbaijan's science and education sectors and its integration into the world science and education

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<sup>39</sup> Əliyeva Mehriban: [Elektron resurs] / URL: <http://mehribanalieva.preslib.az/media-3ad6877454.html>

<sup>40</sup> UNESCO-nun Xoşməramlı Səfiri xanım Mehriban Əliyevanın fəaliyyəti (2004-2022): [Elektron resurs] / URL: <https://unesco.az/az/pages/unesco-goodwill-ambassador-mehriban-aliyeva>

system. In this regard, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation's "Support to Education" project is of particular importance.<sup>41</sup>

The Heydar Aliyev Foundation has provided financial support for the repair, restoration, and preservation of cultural and world cultural heritage, including important Christian monuments, and has implemented projects in this area. The Foundation is contributing to the restoration of the region's material and cultural heritage after the Second Karabakh War.

The third chapter of the dissertation is called **“Main areas of UNESCO-Azerbaijan cooperation: science, education, culture and cultural heritage”**. The first paragraph of this chapter, entitled **“Cooperation in the field of science and education”**, indicates that cooperation between Azerbaijan and UNESCO in the fields of science and education has been selected for its continuous development. The Azerbaijani side, in accordance with the requirements of Article 7 of the UNESCO Charter, has established its National Commission. The National Commission, operating under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, ensures the effectiveness of cooperation by coordinating relations between the bodies operating in the fields of science, education and culture and UNESCO. The Republic of Azerbaijan, for its part, has always kept the issue of improving the structure of the National Commission and increasing the effectiveness of its activities in the spotlight. Thus, in September 2005, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan İlham Aliyev signed an Order on additional measures related to the National Commission.<sup>42</sup>

After the establishment of the new National Commission consisting of representatives of specialized and relevant organizations, special dynamism began to be observed in the Azerbaijan-UNESCO cooperation, and the opportunities for

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<sup>41</sup> Əliyeva, Y. Heydər Əliyev fondu – milli-mədəni irsimizin hamisi / Səs, – 2009, 9 may. – s. 6-7.

<sup>42</sup> YUNESKO üzrə Azərbaycan Respublikasının Milli Komissiyası ilə bağlı əlavə tədbirlər haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin Sərəncamı: [Elektron resurs] / 15 sentyabr 2005-ci il. URL: <https://e-qanun.az/framework/10729>; Azərbaycan – YUNESKO: [Elektron resurs] / URL: [http://republic.preslib.az/az\\_a7-6.html](http://republic.preslib.az/az_a7-6.html)

developing cooperation in the fields of science and education have expanded on the basis of numerous programs and projects. It should be noted that the Republic of Azerbaijan was elected a member of the European Regional Committee back in 1994. The main significance of the election of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the European Regional Committee was that our country was accepted into the Academic Recognition Convention. This gave Azerbaijan the opportunity to cooperate more effectively in the field of science and education, and also revealed the position of the Azerbaijani side regarding the acceptance and implementation of obligations reflected in international normative documents in this direction.

In general, the implementation of joint projects with the organization, the establishment of UNESCO chairs, international educational forums, and academic exchanges were important in terms of the development of science and education.

The second paragraph of the third chapter is entitled **“Cooperation in the field of culture”**. This sub-chapter shows that UNESCO-Azerbaijan cooperation is, first of all, of strategic importance in terms of preventing the appropriation of Azerbaijan’s national and cultural heritage. Numerous examples of historical material cultural heritage have been destroyed or rendered unusable in the territories of Azerbaijan occupied by Armenia, and many historical Azerbaijani monuments have been falsified and appropriated by Armenians.

The Republic of Azerbaijan actively participates in UNESCO programs and projects aimed at developing intercultural dialogue. The selection of Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, as the venue for the meeting on the theme “East-West Intercultural Dialogue between GUAM countries: Creation of a Europe-Caucasus-Asia Cultural Corridor” by UNESCO in July 2003, with the close participation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, was an objective assessment of our country’s potential in developing global intercultural dialogue. The “Baku Process”, put forward by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev at the conference organized in Baku in December 2008 on the theme “Intercultural Dialogue is the Basis of Sustainable Development and Peace in Europe and Its Neighboring

Regions”, was a unique initiative that would serve the development of intercultural dialogue.<sup>43</sup> The Baku Process has quickly become an international initiative and has further strengthened the image of Azerbaijan as a truly multicultural country. The holding of the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue in Azerbaijan every two years is a clear proof of this. Thus, six World Forums on Intercultural Dialogue were held in Baku in 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2024. Such influential organizations as UNESCO, UN, CE, Alliance of Civilizations, ISESCO were closely involved in organizing these forums, which played a serious role in the development of Azerbaijan's international contacts.

During the period under study, 19 examples of intangible cultural heritage were included in the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.<sup>44</sup>

The events held within the framework of UNESCO's jubilee program have created conditions for the recognition of Azerbaijan's rich cultural heritage by international organizations and for the dissemination of information about prominent Azerbaijani thinkers and personalities to a wider public.

The third paragraph of the third chapter is called **“Restoration of cultural heritage after the Second Karabakh War and Azerbaijan-UNESCO cooperation”**. This paragraph states that as a result of the 30-year Armenian occupation of the Azerbaijani Army under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev in just 44 days, the whole world once again witnessed the atrocities and barbarity committed by Armenia against our cultural heritage. In the territories liberated from occupation, more than 700 historical monuments, more than 60 mosques, 22 museums, including 100,000 museum exhibits, 927 libraries, 58 archaeological sites, 26 fortresses and fortress walls and other cultural heritage sites were destroyed,

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<sup>43</sup> Baku Process: The Power on Intercultural Dialogue in a diverse world. 3-rd Intercultural Dialogue, Baku, 2015.

<sup>44</sup> Azərbaycan – UNESCO münasibətləri: [Elektron resurs] / URL: <https://mfa.gov.az/Az/category/beynelxalq-teskilatlar/azerbaycan-unesco-munasibetleri>

looted or appropriated by Armenia.<sup>45</sup> Although Azerbaijan repeatedly appealed to UNESCO to organize a mission to the Karabakh region during the occupation of its historical territories, the organization attributed the reason for its failure to implement this to its lack of political interference. Although an agreement was reached to send separate UNESCO missions to Azerbaijan and Armenia at a video conference held on February 4, 2022 with the participation of the Presidents of Azerbaijan, France, and the Council of the European Union, as well as the Prime Minister of Armenia, this decision has not been implemented.<sup>46</sup>

In general, it can be concluded that Azerbaijan has always attached great importance to cooperation with UNESCO, and has been open to constructive dialogue, expecting the same and equal treatment, fair and honest approach from the organization.

The main scientific **results** obtained in the research are reflected in the section. First of all, it was concluded that UNESCO acts as a “soft power” and a foreign policy tool in the world.

Secondly, Azerbaijan’s participation in the initiatives and projects put forward by UNESCO demonstrated the central role of our state in inter-civilizational cooperation.

Thirdly, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, in addition to contributing to Azerbaijani culture in the preservation of national and cultural heritage, supported UNESCO’s activities.

Finally, the organization did not show an objective attitude towards the cities, villages, and cultural heritage of Azerbaijan destroyed as a result of the Armenian occupation.

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<sup>45</sup> Mədəni irsə ziyan: [Elektron resurs] / URL: <https://www.mfa.gov.az/az/category/ermenistanin-azerbaycana-qarsi-tecavuzunun-fesadlari/medeni-irse-ziyan>

<sup>46</sup> İlham Əliyevin, Fransa Prezidentinin, Avropa Şurası Prezidentinin və Ermənistanın baş nazirinin iştirakı ilə videoformatda görüş keçirilib: [Elektron resurs] / URL: <https://president.az/az/articles/view/55368/print>

**The main content of the dissertation is published in the following articles:**

1. Akbarli, N.F. Heydar Aliyev's role in the establishment of Azerbaijan-UNESCO relations // Heydər Əliyev Multikulturalizm və Tolerantlıq ideologiyası, I Beynəlxalq Elmi Konfransın materialları, – Bakı: – 9 aprel-5 may, – 2018, №1, – s. 302-303.
2. Əkbərli, N.F. UNESCO-nun strukturu və fəaliyyət prinsipləri // – Bakı: Tarix və onun Problemləri, – 2019. №3, – s. 292-298.
3. Əkbərli, N.F. UNESCO və Azərbaycanın humanitar siyasəti // – Bakı: Geostrategiya, – 2019, № 05(53), – s. 75-79.
4. Əkbərli, N.F. Müasir mərhələdə UNESCO-nun əsas fəaliyyət istiqamətləri // – Bakı: Odlar Yurdu Universitetinin Elmi və Pedaqoji Xəbərləri, – 2019. № 52, – s. 173-178.
5. Əkbərli, N.F. Təhsil, elm və mədəniyyət sahəsində əməkdaşlıq Azərbaycanın humanitar xarici siyasətinin mühüm istiqamətlərindən biri kimi // Beynəlxalq münasibətlərin aktual problemləri mövzusunda keçirilən Respublika Elmi Konfransın materialları, – Bakı: – 25 oktyabr, – 2019. – s. 353-357.
6. Akbarli, N.F. The main activities of UNESCO currently // – Kiev: – Гилея, – 2019. – s. 23-26.
7. Əkbərli, N.F. Heydər Əliyev Fondunun Azərbaycan-UNESCO əməkdaşlığında yeri və rolu // – Bakı: ADPU, Pedaqoji Universitetinin xəbərləri, – 2020. № 2, – s. 107-114.
8. Akbarli, N.F. Essence and directions of humanitarian foreign policy // – Uzhgorod National University, journal of "Regional Studies", – 2020. № 20, – s. 158-162.
9. Акперли, Н.Ф. Миссии международных организаций в области науки, образования и культуры // Исследование путей развития научно-технического потенциала общества в стратегическом периоде, Материалы Международной научно-практической конференции, – Москва: – 24 ноябр, – 2022, – s. 60-63.
10. Əkbərli, N.F. Maddi-mədəni, dini irsimizin erməni vandalizminə məruz qalması və bu cinayətlərə YUNESKO-nun münasibəti // – Bakı: Tarix və onun Problemləri. – 2024. №2, – s. 176-180.



The defense of the dissertation will be held on “30” October 2025, at 11:00, at the meeting of the FD 2.30 Dissertation Council of the Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, operating at the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Address: AZ 1001, Baku, Lermontov Street, 74.

The dissertation is accessible for consultation at the library of the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The electronic versions of the dissertation and the abstract have been posted on the official website of the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

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