

THE LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
on Approval of the Internal Regulations of the Milli Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of
Azerbaijan

For the purpose of organizing its work in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Article 96, part I, paragraph 1, the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan decrees:

1. The Internal Regulations of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan shall be approved (enclosed).
2. This Law enters into force since the day of its publication.

Heydar Aliyev,
President of the Republic of the Azerbaijan

The city of Baku, May 17, 1996
N 74-IQ

THE INTERNAL REGULATIONS
of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Chapter I

General Provisions of the Activities of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Article 1. Basics of the Activities of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan

In accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Article 7, Part IV, the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan (hereinafter "the Milli Majlis") shall independently resolve issues related to its competence (power). Main principles of the activities of the Milli Majlis are publicity, political pluralism, and multi-party system, independent consideration and flexible solution of issues.

Regular and ad hoc sessions of each convocation of the Milli Majlis are named in sequential order with ordinal numerals. The National Anthem of the Republic of Azerbaijan is performed at the beginning and at the end of the sessions of the Milli Majlis. The Milli Majlis conducts meetings during its periods of regular or ad hoc sessions. Attendance of the Milli Mejlis meetings by the parliamentarians is obligatory.

During its term of authority the Milli Majlis recesses twice a year-from July 15 to August 30 and from January 1 to January 15. During its recess period members of the Milli Majlis are considered to be on holiday. When ad hoc sessions are convoked during the recess period, the recess of the Milli Majlis shall be suspended while the ad hoc sessions are held and members of the Milli Majlis recalled from the recess for that period.

In accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Article 88, part I, paragraph 1 the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan is assembled annually for two regular sessions: spring and autumn sessions. The spring session commences from February 1 and lasts till May 31. The autumn session commences from September 30 and lasts till December 30. If February 1 and September 30 appears to be Saturday or Sunday, the session starts its work next Monday since that day.

The Milli Majlis is situated in Baku, the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Special regime of the building of the Milli Majlis is defined by the order of the chairman of the Milli Majlis. No search shall be conducted in the building of the Milli Majlis without permission of the chairman of the Milli Majlis

Article 1-1. Setting the time for the conduct of the first meeting of the newly elected Milli Majlis

The first session of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan is convened not later than within one week since the day of the approval of the powers (competence) of 83 members of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan. If the powers of its 83 deputies are not approved by March 10, after the elections to the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Constitutional Court shall set the time of conducting the first session of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In case the Constitutional Court approves election of 83 members to the Milli Majlis after 10 March, the time to conduct the first session of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan shall also be set at the same meeting.

Article 2. The first meeting of the regular convocation of the Milli Majlis

The oldest member of the Milli Majlis opens the first meeting of the regular convocation of the Milli Majlis, reads the list of the members elected to the Milli Majlis and presides the meeting until the chairman of the Milli Majlis is elected.

With the proposal of the person presiding at the first meeting of the Milli Majlis the Computational Commission is elected, and the chairman of the Milli Majlis is elected after the decision is taken on it and with that the first meeting of the regular convocation of the Milli Majlis finishes its work.

Article 3. Meetings of the Milli Majlis

Meetings of the Milli Majlis are valid when 83 members attend it. Meetings of the Milli Majlis are held openly, in publicity and covered by the means of mass media.

This decision is adopted in protocol (formal) procedure.

Information on the content of secret meetings of the Milli Majlis shall not be disclosed and may be used only by members of the Milli Majlis in their activities in the Milli Majlis.

The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan has the right to attend all the meetings of the Milli Majlis. Special seat is allocated to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the meeting hall of the Milli Majlis where the National Flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan is placed.

Meetings of the Milli Mejlis are held in the Azerbaijani language. Members of the Milli Majlis and persons attending the meeting of the Milli Majlis may deliver speeches in other languages as well.

Other persons may also participate in the meetings of the Milli Majlis by the invitation of the Milli Majlis, Chairman of the Milli Majlis and his deputies, as well as the head of the administration of the Milli Majlis.

When conducting open meetings, representatives of the mass media accredited to the Milli Majlis are allowed to enter the assembly hall and take the seats allocated to them.

Article 4. Minutes and shorthand records of Milli Mejlis meetings

All meetings of the Milli Majlis are recorded and taken down in shorthand.

Minutes of meetings of the Milli Majlis are signed by the person presiding at the meeting. The shorthand records of open meetings of the Milli Majlis are officially published from time to time. A member of the Milli Majlis has the right to get familiarized with the text of his/her speech before shorthand records of the meeting of the Milli Majlis are officially published. If argument arises in connection with this, the issue is solved in the Disciplinary Commission of the Milli Majlis.

Article 5. Forms (types) of activities of the Milli Majlis

The activity of the Milli Majlis is structured as the following: regular, and ad hoc sessions, and work during the periods between sessions.

During regular and ad hoc sessions of the Milli Majlis, the Milli Majlis and its Commissions hold their meetings; members of the Milli Majlis take part in the work of the Commissions.

As a rule, meetings of the Milli Majlis are held no less than twice a month. The day and time of meetings of the Milli Majlis are set by the chairman of the Milli Majlis.

As a rule, meetings of the Commissions of the Milli Majlis are held no less than twice a month. The day and time of meetings of the Commissions of the Milli Majlis are set by the chairman of the appropriate Commission of the Milli Majlis. The work of the Milli Majlis Commissions continues in the period between sessions of the Milli Majlis and members of the Milli Majlis take part in the work of the Commissions.

Article 6. Registration of MPs in meetings of the Milli Majlis

Meetings of the Milli Majlis begin with the registration of MPs participating in the meeting. The registration of MPs is carried on by the chairman of the meeting through electronic voting system, if it is not possible, by calling the names of members of the Milli Majlis.

The members who fail to attend the meeting of the Milli Majlis for valid reasons shall notify the Administration of the Milli Majlis about it.

Registration of members is conducted after every intermission of the meeting of the Milli Majlis.

If a member of the Milli Majlis is not able to attend the meeting of the Milli Majlis for non-valid reasons shall get permission from the Chairman of the Milli Majlis in advance. Absence of a member in the meeting by getting the permission is considered to be a valid excuse.

Article 7. Work plan for legislative action of the Milli Majlis

Meetings of the Milli Majlis are held in accordance with the legislative action plan adopted at the beginning of a regular session of the Milli Majlis. The legislative action plan of the Milli Majlis shall be approved by a decision.

Article 8. Rights of members in meetings of the Milli Majlis

In meetings of the Milli Majlis, MPs have the right to make speeches on the issues considered, to make proposals and amendments, to make notes, to ask questions, to give information to persons delivering speeches and to the persons appointed by the Milli Majlis or to the persons nominated to the positions agreed, to participate in the voting.

Draft laws to be considered in meetings of the Milli Majlis are handed out to members at least 3 days prior to the meetings of the Milli Majlis.

Article 9. Requirements toward the persons attending meetings of the Milli Majlis

The persons who attend meetings of the Milli Majlis shall observe the parliament ethics. They shall not hinder the conduct of meetings of the Milli Majlis, interrupt the speeches made by persons, violate the normal course and working procedures of the meeting, give way to rude, insulting acts and words humiliating dignity and honor of humans, and call for unlawful actions. The chairman of a meeting of the Milli Majlis warns the persons not observing the parliament ethics; if there is a repeated violation of the parliament ethics, the chairman may deprive that person of having a floor during the whole meeting day and announce it during the meeting. The person who keeps on behaving this way may be excluded from the meeting hall with the instruction of the chairman of a meeting of the Milli Majlis. All of the cases related to the violation of working procedures of a meeting are recorded on the protocols of the meeting.

Article 10. Chairman of meetings of the Milli Majlis

Chairman of a meeting of the Milli Majlis leads the course of a meeting of the Milli Majlis, ensures the observance of the Internal Regulations of the Milli Majlis, gives floor to persons attending meetings, brings the proposals of MPs to a vote in order, conducts the voting and announces the results of the voting, gives instructions to the staff of the Milli Majlis administration and exercises control over their implementation, reviews minutes of meetings of the Milli Majlis and signs them. Chairman of meetings of the Milli Majlis has the right to notify on the violations of provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, this Internal Regulations and other laws in the course of the meeting. Chairman of meetings of the Milli Majlis enjoys all the rights given to a member of Milli Majlis.

Article 11. The time set for speeches in meetings of the Milli Majlis

About 30 minutes are allocated for a speech in a meeting of the Milli Majlis, 20 minutes-for additional speech, 15 minutes - for closing remarks. Approximately up to 10 minutes are allocated to the persons participating in the discussions, 5 minutes-for repeated speech, 3 minutes-for speeches, statements, questions, proposals, news, references concerning the conduct of the meeting, and related to voting considerations.

When the allocated time is over, the person chairing the meeting notifies the person who makes a speech, after which the person chairing the meeting may interrupt his speech. The person chairing the meeting may change periods set for speeches by this Internal Regulations based on the decisions taken in protocol procedure, and prolong the time envisaged for speeches.

Article 12. Sequence of speeches in meetings of the Milli Majlis

Speeches in the meetings of the Milli Majlis, as a rule, are made in the sequence specified in the agenda with the order of persons registered to make speeches. Chairman of the meeting of the Milli Majlis may change this rule, if considers it necessary in the course of the meeting. Nobody in a meeting of the Milli Majlis may make speech without the permission of the chairman of a meeting of the Milli Majlis. The person breaching this rule shall be deprived of the floor without any notification.

The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Chairman of the Milli Majlis and his deputies are entitled to make speeches out of turn in meetings of the Milli Majlis.

Article 13. Ceasing the discussions in meetings of the Milli Majlis

The discussion of any issue in meetings of the Milli Majlis is ceased based on decision taken in the protocol procedure when the list of persons registered for making speeches on that issue is over.

Chairman of the Milli Majlis meeting after getting proposal on ceasing the discussions informs the MPs on the number of persons who made speeches and intending to make speeches, identifies those persons who insist on making speeches and gives them the floor based on decision taken in the protocol procedure.

After the discussions are ceased, the person who makes a speech or the person who makes additional speech have the right to finalize his speech. After the discussions are ceased speeches may be made only for voting considerations.

Article 14. Registration of draft laws and resolutions submitted to the Milli Majlis and their referral to standing commissions of the Milli Majlis

Draft laws and resolutions submitted to the Milli Majlis are referred to the appropriate standing commissions of the Milli Majlis by the chairman of the Milli Majlis. While draft law is referred to several standing commissions, Milli Majlis chairman designates only one of them as a leading commission.

Article 15. Procedures for the development and consideration of draft laws and resolutions in the standing commissions of the Milli Majlis

Procedures for the development and consideration of draft laws and resolutions in standing commissions of the Milli Majlis are identified by a leading commission of the Milli Majlis in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan and this Internal Regulations.

The standing commission may establish a working group to carry out the work on draft laws and resolutions. If draft laws and resolutions are developed by several standing commissions, they may establish joint working groups. If there are two or more draft laws and resolutions related to one issue, they are considered together.

Administration of the Milli Majlis makes the expertise (expert review) of draft laws and resolutions from legal and language-style point of view with the assignment of the standing commission, as well as draws up the list of laws and other normative legal acts to be adopted, to be changed or to be annulled in connection with the adoption of the draft law.

Comments and proposals of members of the Milli Majlis and other legal subjects with the right of legislative initiative related to draft laws and resolutions are considered in meetings of the leading standing commission.

If different opinions arise among standing commissions of the Milli Majlis on the drafts considered, the decision of the leading standing commission is given preference. The opinion of standing commission disagreeing with this decision is submitted in writing to members in the meeting of the Milli Majlis dedicated to this issue.

To be included in the agenda of the Milli Majlis, the developed or considered draft shall be submitted to the Milli Majlis chairman together with the list of the persons to be invited to the meeting.

Article 16. Readings of draft laws in the Milli Majlis

As a rule, draft laws are considered at three readings in the Milli Majlis. With the decision of the Milli Majlis chairman or with the decision adopted by the Milli Majlis in protocol procedure, the draft law may be considered at one reading.

Article 17. The first reading of the draft law

During the first reading of the draft law the necessity of its adoption, its main provisions are considered and general conception of the draft law is assessed.

The consideration of the draft law begins with the reports of the initiator of the draft and representative of the leading standing commission.

Then if the dissimilarities arise among commissions while considering the draft in the commissions, the opinion of the standing commission disagreeing with the draft is read by the representative of that commission.

The Milli Majlis takes one of the following decisions as a result of consideration of the draft at the first reading:

- 1) the draft shall be adopted at the first reading and shall be revised taking into account proposals and comments made (this decision shall be taken in protocol procedure);
- 2) the draft shall not be adopted;
- 3) the law shall be adopted.

The Milli Majlis takes decision on publishing and giving to public discussion the draft law adopted at the first reading. The leading standing commission explores and generalizes proposals and comments concerning the draft law adopted at the first reading. The leading standing commission

may appoint independent expert review to identify whether or not the changes proposed to the draft accord with the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan. When it is identified that the changes proposed to the draft contradict the Constitutions of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the leading standing commission notifies the author of the changes. The persons who proposed changes may clarify or withdraw the changes during the consideration.

Changes grouped by various articles of the draft are considered in the meeting of the leading standing commission and when the standing commission agrees with these changes, includes them in the text of the draft. The revised draft law is referred to Milli Majlis chairman to be included in the agenda of meeting of the Milli Majlis in order to be considered at the second reading.

The draft law is sent to its initiator 5 days prior to its consideration at the second reading in the Milli Majlis.

In accordance with the Republic of Azerbaijan Constitution, Article 96, part II draft laws or resolutions submitted to the consideration of the Milli Majlis in the procedure of legislative initiative by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Supreme Court of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Prosecutor's Office of the Republic Azerbaijan and the Supreme Assembly of the Nakchivan Autonomous Republic shall be put into discussion in the form as they are submitted and shall be put to the vote. Changes to such draft laws or resolutions may be made only with the consent of those bodies.

In accordance with article 1.5 of the Republic of Azerbaijan Constitutional Law on the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan may make proposals to the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the adoption of laws or revising the laws in order to ensure human rights and freedoms. The Commissioner may make proposal to the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan on announcing the Amnesty. Those proposals are referred to appropriate standing commission or commissions by Milli Majlis chairman. When the appropriate commission expresses positive attitude towards the proposals, these proposals are put to the consideration of the Milli Majlis.

Article 18. The second reading of the draft law

The consideration of the draft law at the second reading begins with the report of the representative of the leading standing commission. The reporter gives information on the results of the consideration of the draft in the standing commission.

The consideration of the draft at the second reading, as a rule, is continued with the speech of the initiator of the draft law or his representative.

Then a decision is taken in the protocol procedure on the adoption of the draft law considered at the second reading as a framework. If such decision is not taken, the draft law is considered as rejected.

After adopting the draft law as a framework, chairman of the Milli Majlis meeting asks members if they have any arguments against the changes made to the draft law. If there are such arguments, every member is allocated 3 minutes to briefly justify their arguments. The reporter gives short feedback to those arguments and draft law is considered article by article. The draft law or resolution is put to the consideration of the Milli Majlis together with the opinion of the legal expertise, in case the proposal made to the draft requires extra expenditures, also with the opinion of budget expertise.

Further the draft law is adopted at the second reading. The draft law adopted at the second reading is returned to the leading standing commission to eliminate internal gaps revealed during the consideration of the draft law, and to be edited.

After finishing this work, the leading standing commission refers the draft law prepared for the third reading to the Milli Majlis chairman. Milli Majlis chairman includes the consideration of the draft law at the third reading in the agenda of meeting of the Milli Majlis.

Article 19. The third reading of the draft law

At the third reading of the draft law the draft is wholly put to vote. Changes shall not be made in the text of the draft law at the third reading.

In exceptional cases the draft law may be returned to the second reading from the third reading with the request of the majority of deputies attending the meeting of the Milli Majlis.

Article 20. Duration of consideration of draft laws and resolutions in the Milli Majlis

With the exception of cases envisaged by the Republic of Azerbaijan Constitution, Article 96, part IV and V, in all other cases the drafts submitted to the Milli Majlis are reviewed, considered and decision is made on them within 6 months.

If the subjects (entities) listed in the Republic of Azerbaijan Constitution, Article 96, part V send draft laws and resolutions less than 20 days before the completion of the work of the session of the Milli Majlis, Milli Majlis chairman may solicit for reviewing those drafts in the regular session. If the legal subjects of legislative initiative refuse the solicitation, the decision shall be taken on those drafts by the completion of the work of Milli Majlis session.

Article 21. Reviewing the laws causing the objection of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and returned to the Milli Majlis.

If the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan rejects the law adopted by the Milli Majlis within the period of time indicated in the Republic of Azerbaijan Constitution, Article 11, part I, the Milli Majlis reviews that law again.

Milli Majlis Chairman refers the law rejected by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the leading standing commission or to the specially established commission for their opinion. That commission reviews the issue within 10 days and suggests the Milli Majlis to take one of the following decisions:

To adopt the law with the changes proposed by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

To adopt the proposal of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the inexpediency of the law ;

To keep the law in the adopted edition.

Having received this opinion, Milli Majlis chairman includes the law rejected by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the agenda of the regular meeting of the Milli Majlis to be reconsidered and immediately notifies the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Reconsideration of the law starts with the speech of the representative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Then the opinion of the commission of the Milli Majlis that stipulates this article is read.

If the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan puts the question as inexpediency of the law, first this proposal is put to vote and if adopted at least by majority of 63 votes, the law is considered not to be adopted. If that proposal is not adopted, the proposal on repeated adoption of the law is put to vote. In accordance with the Republic of Azerbaijan Constitution, Article 110, part II, if the Milli Majlis re-adopts the law that has been adopted by the majority of 83 votes by majority of 95 votes, and the law that has been adopted by majority of 63 votes-by majority of 83 votes, the law is considered readopted and shall be referred to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan not later than 7 days to be published.

If the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan returns the law to the Milli Majlis with the proposals to make changes to the law, first of all this proposal shall be put to vote. When the law gains the majority of votes, the law is considered to be adopted with the changes proposed by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

If the proposal of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan fails to win the majority of votes, the issue on keeping the law in the edition as it had been adopted by the Milli Majlis shall be put to vote. The readopted law is referred to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan no later than 7 days in order to be published.

If decisions envisaged by part V and VII of this Article are not adopted, the laws returned by the President of the Republic of the Azerbaijan to the Milli Majlis, are considered as not adopted.

Article 21-1. The report of the Republic of Azerbaijan Cabinet of Ministers, Annual Report of the Chamber of Accounts of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Annual report of the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Annual report of the Body implementing administrative control over activities of municipalities, Report of the Commissioner on Information Issues, Annual statement of the National Coordinator on combating trafficking in human beings.

In accordance with the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On Additional Guarantees for the rights of settling the issue of credence (confidence) of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan”, Article 1, every year the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan reports on the activities of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan in fifth meeting of the summer session of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In accordance with the Republic of Azerbaijan Chamber of Accounts Internal Regulations, Article 25.3, the Chamber of Accounts presents the annual reports on its activities to the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In accordance with the Republic of Azerbaijan Constitutional Law “On the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan”, Article 14.1, the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan delivers the annual report to the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In accordance with the Republic of Azerbaijan Law “On Administrative Control over Activities of Municipalities”, Article 9, at the end of every year the body implementing administrative control over activities of municipalities presents annual report on its activities to the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In this report the body implementing administrative control over activities of municipalities may make proposals on making changes and amendments to the legislative acts regulating the activities of municipalities.

In accordance with the Republic of Azerbaijan Law “On Combating trafficking in human beings”, Article 7.5, the National Coordinator on combating trafficking in human beings presents the annual statement on combating trafficking in human beings in the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Commissioner on Information Issues submits report to the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan at latest within 3 months after every current year. The report includes generalized summary of activities performed during the year, as well as information on the legal violations committed by information owners, applications and complaints, work carried on in the procedure of service control, measures taken, other cases related to the implementation of the law, also opinion and proposals of the Commissioner.

Article 22. The procedure of termination of the immunity of a deputy of the Milli Majlis

In accordance with the Republic of Azerbaijan Constitution, Article 90, Part II, the immunity of a deputy (member) of the Milli Majlis may be terminated only by the decision of the Milli Majlis based on recommendation of the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Milli Majlis reviews the recommendation on this issue within 7 days since the date it was received.

Chairman of the Milli Majlis, as a rule, refers the recommendation on the member to the Disciplinary Commission of the Milli Majlis, by who this issue is reviewed. The Commission passes an opinion on the recommendation. The opinion expresses the decision of the Disciplinary Commission whether or not the immunity of the deputy should be terminated.

The Milli Majlis, as a rule, reviews the issues on this matter in the presence of the deputy about whom the termination of the immunity was recommended. When reviewing this issue in the meeting of the Milli Majlis, the issue whether the deputy is guilty or not in the alleged offence shall not be considered. The deputies taking part in the meeting are entitled only to clarify whether or not there are sufficient grounds in the recommendation of the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Azerbaijan concerning the termination of the immunity of the deputy and they may ask questions the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Azerbaijan and speak for or against the termination of the immunity of a deputy. The Milli Majlis may terminate the immunity of a deputy with the required majority of votes.

Article 23. The procedure of reviewing in the Milli Majlis the issue of loss of the powers of a member of the Milli Majlis

In accordance with the Republic of Azerbaijan Constitution, Article 89, Part II when the member of the Milli Majlis fails to regularly perform his/her powers, and in other cases envisaged by law, his/her powers are lost. In the cases envisaged by this Regulations and the Law "On the Status of the Member of the Milli Majlis", the opinion of the Disciplinary Commission of the Milli Majlis on this issue is reviewed in regular meeting of the Milli Majlis.

When reviewing this issue, the Disciplinary Commission announces its decision whether or not the powers of a deputy are lost.

The Disciplinary Commission, as a rule, reviews these issues in the presence of the deputy about whom the issue of loss of the deputy powers is raised. The deputies taking part in the meeting may only clarify if there are sufficient grounds to lose deputy powers and they may ask questions the members of the Disciplinary Commission, speak for or against of loss of the deputy powers. The Milli Majlis may take decision on loss the deputy powers with the required majority of votes.

Article 24. Types and procedures for voting in meetings of the Milli Majlis

In the meetings of the Milli Majlis issues are solved by open or secret vote.

In the meetings of the Milli Majlis, as a rule, open vote is conducted (taken) by using electronic voting system. To use other voting systems, a decision shall be taken in the protocol procedure. If required at least by 25 deputies of the Milli Majlis, an open vote is held in name-by-name mode by using electronic voting system.

When voting is held on each issue, one deputy of the Milli Majlis has one vote. When taking a voting (vote) the deputy may vote for, or against the issue or may abstain in the vote. Abstention by the deputy attending the meeting does not affect on the quorum.

The deputy attending the meeting shall personally vote.

The deputy, who is not in the hall during the voting, may not vote after the time allocated for the voting is over.

Nobody may suspend the voting process (except expressing protests on the conduct of the meeting) after the chairman of the Milli Majlis announced the commencement of the voting.

The chairman of the Milli Majlis having identified the results of the voting announces them. When there is no quorum required for the solution of the issue, the chairman of the meeting of the Milli Majlis leaves the voting for the regular (next) meeting of the Milli Majlis.

Article 25. Open voting

Open voting may be held by using electronic system, without using electronic system and by name-by-name survey.

Open voting by using electronic system, may be held in simple mode and name-by-name mode. Open voting by using electronic system in simple mode is implemented by pushing the buttons, which are in front of members and is reflected in the protocols of meetings of the Milli Majlis only by indicating the results of the voting without showing how the members vote. Open voting by using electronic system in name-by-name mode is implemented as the open voting by using electronic system in simple mode, only how each member votes is indicated in protocols of the meetings of the Milli Majlis. After the open vote is held by using electronic system both members of the Milli Majlis and representatives of the means of mass media, registered in the Milli Majlis have the right to get the results of voting in simple mode, as well as, in name-by-name mode.

When open mode is used without using electronic system, the votes are counted by the Computational commission. During the open voting without using electronic system the persons presiding at the meeting of the Milli Majlis ask question the members: "for", "against", "abstained". After every question, members either raise their hands or do not depending on their positions. The Computational commission counts the votes and announces the results after the voting is over.

Open voting by name-by-name survey is held with the questionnaires. One of the members of the Computational commission of the Milli Majlis comes to each of the members attending the meeting and gives them a questionnaire. A member writes his name and signs in one of the boxes "for", "against", or "abstained" in the questionnaire depending on his/her position. The Computational commission calculates the votes after the voting finishes and gives the questionnaires to the person presiding at the meeting of the Milli Majlis. The person presiding at the meeting of the Milli Majlis announces the results of the open voting held by the name-by-name survey.

Before the open voting started the person presiding at the meeting of the Milli Majlis gives information about the number, content and sequence of the proposals made and about the majority of votes with which the issue should be adopted.

Article 26. Secret voting

Secret voting is held by using electronic system or with ballots.

When secret voting held by using electronic system, information on how a member voted is entered into the memory of the electronic system.

Secret voting with ballots is held in the meeting hall of the Milli Majlis. The Computational commission prepares the ballots, checks the ballot box, seals it, and invites the members to vote in accordance with the list.

The Computational commission shall create conditions to ensure the confidentiality of the voting. The members get the ballots by signing the list, enter the voting booth, which is installed in the visible place to everybody in the meeting hall, and fill in the ballots there. A member shall delete the two of boxes of "for", "against", or "abstained" in the ballot and keep one of them. If the secret voting is held on the candidates, the member shall keep the name of the candidate that he is voting for and delete the names of other candidates. The member personally casts the filled in ballot into the ballot box and then takes his/her seat in the meeting hall. After the secret voting through the

ballots is over, the Computational commission opens the ballot box in the meeting hall and calculates the votes.

A protocol is drawn up on the results of secret voting. This protocol includes total number of members in the list, the number of members voted, the number of unused ballots, the number of invalid ballots, the number of valid ballots, and the results of the voting. The ballots that were not drawn up in the way the Computational commission identified, as well as ballots where either all of the words of "for", "against", "abstained" or one of them, or none of them are deleted, or the names of all of the candidates are deleted or the name of more than one candidate is kept, are considered invalid ballots. The list of members and the ballots are put in the envelope and sealed. The protocol on the results of voting is signed by all of the members of the Computational commission. The commission member who refuses to sign the protocol of the Computational commission may add special opinion to the protocol and may immediately announce his/her special opinion. The chairman of the Computational commission announces the results of the secret voting held with ballots.

If the Milli Majlis takes decision on the name-by-name voting and secret voting in relation to the settling of one issue, the secret voting is chosen.

Article 27. The second phase of the voting

If after voting held on more than two candidates, none of the candidates can get the majority of votes envisaged by the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the two candidates who get more votes go to the next phase of the voting. In the second phase, the candidate that got the majority of votes envisaged by the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan for taking the decisions of the Milli Majlis is considered to be as elected. In the second phase when none of the candidates can win the required majority of votes, a new vote is held by the nomination of other candidates.

Article 28. Repeated voting

If technical or procedure related errors (in connection with errors in the electronic system) are revealed while identifying the results of voting, repeated voting is held by the decision of the Milli Majlis taken in the protocol procedure.

Article 29. The use of electronic system in meetings of the Milli Majlis

Electronic system is used in meetings of the Milli Majlis to register members, to write them for making speeches and taking a vote.

The chairman of the Milli Majlis implements control over the use of the electronic system.

The results of registration of members, writing them for making speeches and results of the voting is demonstrated on the electronic indicator panel installed in the meeting hall.

All of the information is stored in the memory of the electronic system and in the magnetic cells (conductor) in the archive of the Milli Majlis. The information stored in the electronic system is given by the permission of the chairman of the Milli Majlis to members and other person who appeals for it. The information on the closed meetings of the Milli Majlis is given only to the chairman of the Milli Majlis.

The complaints on the errors in the performance of the electronic system are reviewed by the chairman of the Milli Majlis.

Article 30. The majority of votes required to the adoption of the acts of the Milli Majlis

Unless otherwise is stipulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan and by the Internal Regulations, the acts of the Milli Majlis are adopted by the majority of votes of 63 members.

Decisions in protocol procedure related to procedure issues, unless otherwise is stipulated by the Internal Regulations, are taken by the simple majority of votes of the members attending the meetings of the Milli Majlis.

Chapter II

Bodies of the Milli Majlis

Article 31. The powers of the chairman of the Milli Majlis

The chairman of the Milli Majlis:

Conducts meetings of the Milli Majlis;

Convokes ad hoc sessions of the Milli Majlis based on requirement of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan or 42 members of the Milli Majlis;

Makes distribution of work among the deputies of the chairman of the Milli Majlis;

Together with the deputies of the chairman of the Milli Majlis and chairmen of the standing commissions of the Milli Majlis develops the plan of legislative actions of each regular session of the Milli Majlis, and submits it to the Milli Majlis;

Refers draft laws and resolutions entered to the Milli Majlis in the procedure of the legislative initiative to the appropriate commissions of the Milli Majlis;

Refers the adopted laws to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan to sign them;

Ensures internal discipline of the Milli Majlis within the powers envisaged by the Internal Regulations;

Represents the Milli Majlis in the relations with bodies of executive and judicial powers, political parties, public unions, trade unions, foreign countries and international organizations, means of mass media, as well as, other physical and juridical persons;

Appoints to and dismisses from the position the administrative staff of the Milli Majlis;

Terminates the powers of the Commissioner on the Information Issues in the cases envisaged by the legislation;

Establishes the working groups to develop the important draft laws;

Implements other powers envisaged by the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and this Internal Regulations;

The chairman of the Milli Majlis takes instructions related to the implementation of its powers; If a member of the Milli Majlis renounces his/her mandate in meetings of the Milli Majlis and the renouncement is included in the shorthand records of the meeting of the Milli Majlis, he may not withdraw the renouncement.

The chairman of the Milli Majlis may include the urgent issues as top priority issues and other issues into the agenda of the Milli Majlis.

Article 32. Deputies of the Milli Majlis chairman and their powers

The first deputy and deputies of the Milli Majlis chairman are elected in the first session of the regular convocation of the Milli Majlis.

Deputies of the Milli Majlis chairman are functioning based on the distribution of work made amongst them, fulfill various tasks of the chairman of the Milli Majlis, and preside at meetings of the Milli Majlis with the instruction of the chairman of the Milli Majlis.

When the position of the chairman of the Milli Majlis is temporarily vacant, the first deputy of the Milli Majlis chairman, if he is not available, the eldest deputy of the chairman of the Milli Majlis, if he is not available, a deputy of the Milli Majlis chairman implements his powers until the time the chairman of the Milli Majlis is elected.

Article 33. The procedure of electing the Milli Majlis chairman

The chairman of the Milli Majlis is elected amongst the members of the Milli Majlis by secret voting with ballots

Members of the Milli Majlis may nominate the candidate to the position of the chairman of the Milli Majlis. Every member may nominate only one candidate.

Rejecting of one's own candidacy is accepted without taking a vote.

The names of the candidates supported at least by ten members are included in the ballots. The candidates may make speeches and answer the questions of the member. The discussions are held on the candidates included in the ballot. Every candidate to the position of the chairman of the Milli Majlis may include one additional member to the Computational commission.

As a result of secret voting with ballots the candidate that won at least the votes of 63 members is elected as a chairman of the Milli Majlis.

When none of the candidates can get at least 63 votes, the second phase of the voting is held in the procedure envisaged by Article 27 of the Internal Regulations. If none of the candidates can win 63 votes in the second phase, the vote is taken to elect the first deputy of the chairman of the Milli Majlis.

The election of the chairman of the Milli Majlis is legalized by the decision of the Milli Majlis. This decision is signed by the person presiding at the meeting of the Milli Majlis.

Article 34. The Procedure of electing the deputies of the chairman of the Milli Majlis

Deputies of the Milli Majlis chairman are elected amongst the members by open voting. Candidate to the position of the deputy of the Milli Majlis chairman is nominated first by the chairman of the Milli Majlis, and then by members of the Milli Majlis. The chairman of the Milli Majlis, and each member may nominate only one candidate to the positions of the first deputy and deputy of the Milli Majlis.

Rejecting of one's own candidacy is accepted without taking a vote.

The candidates supported at least by seven members are allowed to the voting. The candidates may make speeches and answer the questions of the member. The discussions are held on the candidates.

As a result of open voting the candidate that won at least the votes of 63 members is elected as a deputy of the chairman of the Milli Majlis.

When none of the candidates can get at least 63 votes, the second phase of the voting is held in the procedure envisaged by Article 27 of the Regulations. If none of the candidates can win 63 votes in the second phase, the vote is taken to elect the other candidates.

The election of the deputies of the chairman of the Milli Majlis is legalized by the decision of the Milli Majlis.

Article 35. Standing commissions of the Milli Majlis

In accordance with the Republic of Azerbaijan Law on the Standing Commissions of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan the standing commissions of the Milli Majlis are established at the beginning of the first session of the regular convocation of the Milli Majlis.

The standing commissions of the Milli Majlis are competent during the term of power of the convocation of the Milli Majlis.

The standing commissions of the Milli Majlis function based on the Republic of Azerbaijan Law on the Standing Commissions of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan, approved by the majority of the votes of 63 members of the Milli Majlis.

Activities of standing commissions of the Milli Majlis are organized based on the principles of difference of opinions, political pluralism, publicity, and independent consideration of issues.

Article 36. The composition of the standing commissions of the Milli Majlis

The number of members of the standing commissions of the Milli Majlis is identified by the Milli Majlis; however they should consist of minimum 5, maximum 20 members.

The standing commission, which has more than 15 members, may establish a supporting commission.

The leadership of the Milli Majlis may be members of the standing commissions of the Milli Majlis. Every other member of the Milli Majlis shall be a member of one of the standing commissions of the Milli Majlis. The member of the Milli Majlis, who is the chairman of the Milli Majlis of the Nakchivan Autonomous Republic, may not be a member of a standing commission.

The chairman, his deputy and members of the standing commission of the Milli Majlis are elected in a meeting of the Milli Majlis with the majority of votes at least 63 members. The election of the composition of the standing commission is legalized by the decision of the Milli Majlis.

If a member of the Milli Majlis is not a member of any standing commission, the chairman of the Milli Majlis includes him/her in to one of the standing commissions with the order.

Article 37. Meetings of standing commissions of the Milli Majlis

Meetings of standing commissions of the Milli Majlis are valid when attended by more than half of its members.

With the requirement of the chairman of the Milli Majlis the ad hoc session of the standing commission of the Milli Majlis is convoked.

A member of the standing commission shall be notified on the meeting of the standing commission of the Milli Majlis at least 2 days prior the day of the meeting.

Attendance by members of the Milli Majlis, who are standing commission members to the meeting of the standing commission, is obligatory.

Member of the Milli Majlis, who can not attend the meeting of the standing commission due to non-valid reasons, shall get permission from the chairman of the standing commission.

Members who are not a member of the standing commission may participate in meetings of the standing commission with advisory vote. Chairmen of the standing commissions may invite other persons to their meetings as well.

Two or more standing commissions of the Milli Majlis may hold a joint meeting.

Article 38. Chairman of the standing commission and his/her deputy

A meeting of the standing commission is conducted by its chairman or by the deputy of the chairman with the instruction of the chairman.

The chairman of the standing commission supervises the work of the standing commission, sets the day and time of its meetings, gives tasks to different members of the standing commission, coordinates the work of the standing commission with the work of other commissions of the Milli Majlis, and develops the protocols of the standing commission.

Deputy chairman of the standing commission substitutes the chairman, when he is not available, and supervises some activities of the standing commission by the instruction of the chairman.

Article 39. The rights of the standing commissions

The standing commission has the right to require documents and materials necessary to develop the draft laws and resolutions from central and local executive and judicial authorities, local self-governing bodies, public and non-public entities, departments, and organizations, and to invite their representatives (experts) to the meetings of the standing commission.

Central and local executive and judicial authorities, local self-governing bodies, public and non-public entities, departments, and organizations shall send the documents and materials required by the standing commissions to develop the draft laws and resolutions within 10 days to the standing commission. If these documents and materials contain state, military, commercial secrets or other confidential information protected by the law, they shall not be sent to Milli Majlis and a well-grounded reply in writing shall be given to the chairman of the Milli Majlis.

If the chairman of the Milli Majlis is not satisfied with this reply and requires the documents and materials, submission of the documents and materials to the chairman of the Milli Majlis is compulsory.

Article 40. The Computational commission of the Milli Majlis

The Computational commission is established in the first meeting of regular convocation of the Milli Majlis and then every year in the first meeting of the spring session of the Milli Majlis. The Computational commission functions only in the meetings of the Milli Majlis to take open and secret votes, and to identify their results without using the electronic system.

The Computational commission of the Milli Majlis is elected with the composition of 7 members amongst the members of the Milli Majlis for the period of one year.

After having been elected, the Computational commission elects its chairman and secretary amongst its members.

The meeting of the Computational commission is valid when attended by at least its 4 members. All of the decisions of the computational commission are taken with the simple majority of votes of its members. The member disagreeing with its decision may include his/her special opinion in the final protocol of the commission and may make speech in the meeting of the commission with his/her special opinion.

When holding election for the chairman of the Milli Majlis, every candidate nominated to the position of a chairman of the Milli Majlis may include one additional member to the composition of

the Computational commission. These members of the Computational commission may be a member of the commission only during the election of the chairman of the Milli Majlis.

Article 41. The Disciplinary Commission of the Milli Majlis

The Disciplinary commission is established in the first meeting of regular convocation of the Milli Majlis and then every year in the first meeting of the spring session of the Milli Majlis. The Disciplinary commission functions to review and solve the issues of members that bear intra-parliamentary responsibility, as well as to submit opinion on the issues related to ceasing the immunity of a deputy and loss of deputy powers.

The Disciplinary commission of the Milli Majlis is elected with the composition of 7 members for the period of one year amongst the members of the Milli Majlis. After having been elected, the Disciplinary commission elects its chairman and secretary amongst its members.

The meeting of the Disciplinary commission is valid when attended by at least its 4 members. All of the decisions of the Disciplinary commission are taken with the simple majority of votes of its members. Its member disagreeing with its decision, may include his/her special opinion in the final protocols of the commission and make speech in the meeting of the commission with his/her special opinion.

Article 42. Temporary commissions of the Milli Majlis

Temporary commissions of the Milli Majlis may be established from the Members of the Milli Majlis. The structure, duties, powers and operational period of temporary commissions are identified by the resolution of the Milli Majlis.

Article 43. Deputy factions (groups) of the Milli Majlis

At least 25 members of the Milli Majlis may voluntarily unite to establish deputy factions (groups). A statement on establishment of deputy factions (groups) is read at the session of Milli Majlis and a faction (group) is registered at the Administration of the Milli Majlis.

A deputy faction (group) may put forward proposals for the consideration by the Milli Majlis and express attitude towards all issues that are put under consideration of Milli Majlis.

A deputy faction (group) is regarded to be liquidated when the structure of the faction is less than 25 deputies as a result of exclusion of a deputy from faction and it is announced at the session of Milli Majlis.

Article 44. Chamber of Accounts of the Milli Majlis

According to the Article 92 of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Milli Majlis establishes a Chamber of Accounts. The Chamber of Accounts is the permanent budgetary agency, which reports to the Milli Majlis.

The Chamber of Accounts consists of a chairman, deputy chairman and 7 auditors.

Chairman, deputy chairman and auditors of the Chamber of Accounts shall be persons with higher education and experience in state administration, state control, economy, finance.

Chairman, deputy chairman and auditors of the Chamber of Accounts are appointed by the Milli Majlis based on the recommendation of the Chairman of the Milli Majlis.

Candidates for chairmanship and deputy chairmanship take the floor at the Milli Majlis. Members of Parliament may ask them questions, express views on the proposed candidate, vote for or against them.

Auditors of the Chamber of Accounts are introduced to the Milli Majlis with brief information. A decision on appointment or dismissal of chairman, deputy chairman or auditors is taken with majority of votes of at least 63 parliamentarians.

Chapter III

Intraparliamentary responsibility of a Member of Milli Majlis

Article 45. Basics for intraparlimentary responsibility of a Member of the Milli Majlis

A Member of Milli Majlis may bear the responsibility when he/she:

- 1) hinders the conduct of the meetings of the Milli Majlis and its commissions;
- 2) interrupts the speakers at the meetings of the Milli Majlis and its commissions;
- 3) breaks normal course and work regime of the meetings of the Milli Majlis and its commissions;
- 4) commits rude and abusive acts or expressions, calls to illegal action humiliating human pride and dignity at the meetings of the Milli Majlis and its commissions;
- 5) commits acts disgracing the title of a Member of Parliament;
- 6) is absent from the sessions of Milli Majlis and its commissions for non-valid excuse.

Article 46. The order for administrative measures applied to the parliamentarian brought to the intraparlimentary responsibility

According to basics indicated in Article 45 of the present Law, the following disciplinary measures may be applied to the Member of Parliament:

- 1) warning;
- 2) interruption of speech;
- 3) turning out of the meeting hall;
- 4) reprimand;
- 5) loss of powers of a deputy (parliamentarian).

Article 47. Rules for applying administrative measures to the Member of Parliament involved to the intraparlimentary responsibility

According to basics indicated in paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4 of the Article 45 of the present Law, the person who presides at the session of the Milli Majlis or its commission may warn, interrupt the speech or turn out the Member of Parliament of the meeting hall. Usually, the Members of Parliament roughly violating the regulations are turned out of the meeting hall.

Based on a recommendation by the chairman of Milli Majlis or the commission, the case of a parliamentarian, who was repeatedly notified, interrupted, turned out of the session hall, is sent to the Disciplinary Commission of the Milli Majlis for consideration. The Disciplinary Commission shall hold the meeting on this issue within 5 days and may use shorthand records and videotapes of Milli Majlis meetings. A parliamentarian violating the discipline may receive a reprimand based on the decision of the Disciplinary Commission.

According to the basics indicated in paragraph 5 of the Article 45 of this Law, the chairman of Milli Majlis submits the case of a parliamentarian to the Disciplinary Commission. The Disciplinary Commission makes an investigation within a two-week period and may administer a reprimand in case of finding out indications of disgracing the title of a Member of Parliament.

According to the basics provided in paragraph 6 of the Article 45 of the present Law, the chairman of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan submits the case of a parliamentarian, who is absent during four sessions or six sessions a month in succession for unreasonable excuse, to the Disciplinary Commission based on recommendation made by himself/herself or the chairman of a standing commission. The Disciplinary Commission may consider the case within a week and administer a reprimand to the parliamentarian.

The decision made by the Disciplinary Commission on the reprimand to the parliamentarian is announced at the follow-up session of the Milli Majlis.

Due to basics provided in paragraph 6 of the Article 45 of this Law, the chairman of Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan submits the case of a parliamentarian, who is absent of all meetings of the follow-up session or 30 meetings of the Milli Majlis within a year for unreasonable excuse, to the Disciplinary Commission based on his/her presentation. Following a two-week review of the

case, the Disciplinary Commission put the proposal on loss of deputy authorities to the consideration by Milli Majlis. Milli Majlis gives the consideration to the issue at the regular meeting.

Article 48. Dissemination of information on the parliamentarians involved to the intra-parliamentary responsibility through mass media

Information on the parliamentarians involved to the intra-parliamentary responsibility is published in the "Azerbaijan" newspaper and submitted to other means of mass media by the Administration of Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The list of parliamentarians missing the regular sessions of the Milli Majlis and its commissions for non-valid excuse is published on a monthly basis in the "Azerbaijan" newspaper during the regular sessions of the Milli Majlis.

Chapter IV

Final provisions

Article 49. Exceptions provided for the transition period

Removed

Article 50. Rule of entering into force and making changes to the Internal Regulations of the Milli Majlis

The Internal Regulations of the Milli Majlis enters into force since the date of its publication following its approval by the Milli Majlis in line with the Law and signing by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Changes to the Internal Regulations of the Milli Majlis are made in line with procedures stipulated by the Internal Regulations itself to make changes in the laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Article 51. Monitoring compliance with the Internal Regulations of the Milli Majlis

Administrators of the Milli Majlis monitor the observance of the Internal Regulations of the Milli Majlis.

Article 52. Approval of cost estimates for the Milli Majlis

Cost estimates of the Milli Majlis are approved during annual budget review for the next year at the Milli Majlis.

Article 53. Publication of Milli Majlis documentation

Resolutions of the Milli Majlis are officially published in the Statement of Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Minutes and shorthand records of the Milli Majlis meetings are officially published in the "Minutes and shorthand records of Meetings of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan".