

**Remarks by**

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**Baku, Azerbaijan**

**Remarks at Event Entitled, “Presentation of JCP Phase III,  
the Future of ANAMA-NATO/NSPA PfP Trust Fund  
Projects In Azerbaijan”**

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Salam

Deputy Prime Minister Sharifov, Mr. Appathurai, distinguished guests and colleagues:

Congratulations on completion of Phase One and Two of the Jeyranchel NATO Partnership for Peace Trust Fund Project. As we begin Phase Three, the U.S. will continue to support this project, most notably with the U.S. European Command's recent donation of scanning equipment designed to help our Azerbaijani colleagues' efforts in surveying the contaminated area.

Today's discussion reminds us that the ravages of mines, unexploded ordinance, and other remnants of war are indiscriminate, and disproportionately affect the innocent and most vulnerable among us. This is a problem that ignores borders, hurts economies, and most important-- hurts people.

Humanitarian demining is truly a global effort, and that is why I am proud to join my local and international colleagues as well as our NGO partners in a common goal, to make Azerbaijan free from the threat of landmines and explosive devices.

Since 1999, the United States has provided over \$30 million to support humanitarian demining efforts here in Azerbaijan. U.S. contributions and those of our friends here today have led to real progress in clearing UXO contamination and restoring access to land and infrastructure for Azerbaijani citizens.

I would like to take a moment to recognize past and present international contributors to the Project: Azerbaijan, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom—thanks to you, over 40 square kilometers of contaminated land area have been cleared. Great Job!

But the greatest contribution comes from those ANAMA personnel who risk their lives every day to make others safe.

ANAMA has helped Azerbaijan reach out beyond its borders by providing humanitarian support to other affected countries. For Afghanistan, ANAMA's Mine Risk Education department developed and delivered tens of thousands of student and teacher resources designed to educate children on the dangers of mines and explosive war remnants. These materials have now been approved for inclusion into Afghanistan's official school curriculum. Well done!

In closing, I would like to thank ANAMA and NATO for sponsoring this event, and bringing us together to recognize the contributions, hard work, and significant milestones for this important initiative.

Thank You.