

ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT LAW

This law determines the legal provisions for circulation of electronic documents on the territory of Azerbaijan Republic, regulates relations associated with the creation, usage, storage, transmission and receipt of information produced with the help of software (programs) and technical equipment by the state (authority) agencies, local self-governing bodies, natural and legal persons.

Chapter I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Area of electronic documents circulation.

- 1.1 Electronic document can be used (applied) in all activity spheres where software and technical equipment could be applied to create, use, store, transmit and receive information;
- 1.2 In cases stipulated by the legislation of Azerbaijan Republic restrictions can be put on the application of electronic documents.

Article 2. Main definitions

2.1 The following main definitions are used in this Law:

- 2.1.1 *Electronic document* - document (containing) information expressed in an electronic -digital form and having properties allowing to identify its authenticity;
- 2.1.2 *Machine carrier* - material (physical) carrier used to write (create) and store information with electronic counting equipment (computers);
- 2.1.3 *Electronic document's sender* - natural or legal persons themselves sending electronic documents or on which behalf they are sent, with the exception of those which act as intermediaries in relation to the sent document;
- 2.1.4 *Electronic document's receiver* - is a natural or legal person to whom electronic document is addressed;
- 2.1.5 *Electronic information system* - is a collection of software, equipment, combination of software and equipment, methods and procedures applied to create, use, transmit, receive, store and check for completeness the electronic documents;
- 2.1.6 *Information system's participant* - person participating in the circulation of the electronic documents;
- 2.1.7 *Electronic documents circulation* - is a collection of processes utilized to check completeness and validity, in the necessary cases

confirm the receipt of, create, use, transmit, receive, store and apply electronic documents;

- 2.1.8 *Information intermediary* - one (person) that sends, receives or stores electronic messages on behalf of others, which provides also other services related to these documents;

Article 3. Legislation on electronic document

- 3.1 Legislation of Azerbaijan Republic on electronic document consists of Azerbaijan Republic's Constitution, this Law, other regulatory-normative decrees and intergovernmental (international) treaties that Azerbaijan Republic is party to.

Chapter 2. ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT

Article 4. Requirements to electronic documents

- 4.1 Electronic document should meet the following requirements:
- 4.1.1 be created, used, transmitted and stored with the help (usage) of technical equipment and program support (software);
 - 4.1.2 have structure meeting the requirements of this Law and properties allowing its authentication;
 - 4.1.3 presented in an comprehensible form.

Article 5. Electronic document's structure

- 5.1 Electronic document consists of two inseparable parts: from the general and especial parts.
- 5.2 The general part of electronic document consists of information presenting the content of the document. If the document is addressed to the specific person, information about this person is related to the general part.
- 5.3 The especial part of the electronic document consists of one- or several-digit electronic signature(s).

Article 6. Forms of the electronic document's expression

- 6.1 Electronic document has internal and external forms of expression.
- 6.2 Electronic document's internal form of expression consists of electronic document's recording made in the mechanical bearer of information.
- 6.3 Electronic document's external form of expression consists of visual and comprehensible outcome (appearance) of the electronic document on the screen of display, on the paper or other material object originated (separate) from the mechanical bearer of information.

Article 7. Original of the electronic document

- 7.1. All samples of the electronic document endorsed by the electronic signature are considered as originals. Electronic document cannot have electronic copies (copies in electronic form).
- 7.2. If the same person has produced two documents with the same content, but one of them in an electronic form, and another (separately from the first) - on the paper, these two documents are considered as independent. In this case document on the paper is not considered as a copy of the electronic document.

Article 8. Copy of the electronic document and rules to certify it

- 8.1. The copy of the electronic document is being created by certification of its printed (expressed) on the paper external form in accordance with the rule stipulated by the legislation.
- 8.2. Certification of the external printed on the paper form of the electronic document is conducted by the notary office or other person having the right to conduct notary services;
- 8.3. Printed on the paper copy (version) of the electronic document should bear the notification that this is the copy of the respective electronic document.
- 8.4. The copy of the electronic document expressed on physical object originated from the mechanical bearer, but different from the paper, or paper copy, which was not certified according to the rule, does not have respective legal force (as a copy of the electronic document).

Article 9. Legal force of the electronic document

- 9.1. Electronic document is considered as legal as document expressed (existing) on the paper and has equal legal force.
- 9.2. Originals of the electronic document and its copies printed on the paper in accordance with the requirements of Article 8 of this Law have equal legal force.
- 9.3. If legislation of Azerbaijan Republic requires notary verification and/or official registration of the document, it is not allowed to present (apply) electronic document or its expressed on the paper copy.
- 9.4. Described in the Article 16 of this Law rule of circulation and book-keeping of information (expressed) in the form of electronic document is regulated by the formal book-keeping rules and standards prescribed by the Azerbaijan Republic's legislation.

Article 10. Electronic document presented as material evidence (exhibit) on the court

- 10.1 Electronic document is accepted as a written evidence (exhibit) by the courts of Azerbaijan Republic;
- 10.2 The presentation of the evidence only in the form of an electronic document cannot serve as a reason for its rejection.
- 10.3 When evaluating electronic document as evidence (on the court), the particularities of its creation, storage, transmission, and also authenticity and immutability of the electronic documents and other important cases (conditions) should be taken into account.

Chapter 3. CIRCULATION OF THE ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT

Article 11. Sending (dispatch) of electronic document

- 11.1 Electronic document is considered as sent by its sender in the following cases:
 - 11.1.1 if it was sent by the sender himself/herself;
 - 11.1.2 if it was sent by someone who in the relation to the sent document is authorized to act on the behalf of the sender;
 - 11.1.3 if it was sent by the information system programmed by the sender to function automatically.
- 11.2 If receiver of the electronic document followed in an appropriate manner to agreed with the sender examination procedure allowing to prove that the electronic document was dispatched by the sender, he/she is right by considering the electronic document as one which was sent by the sender.
- 11.3 In the following cases receiver of the document cannot consider them as being sent by the sender:
 - 11.3.1 if during reasonable (rational) period of time receiver has received from the sender the notification that he/she did not dispatch the document;
 - 11.3.2 in the result of fulfillment of the examination procedure shown in the agreement between sides the receiver knew or had to know that the electronic document did not leave the sender.
 - 11.3.3 in the result of fulfillment of the examination procedure shown in the agreement between sides the receiver knew or had to know that he/she has received distorted electronic document;
 - 11.3.4 in the result of fulfillment of the examination procedure shown in the agreement between sides the receiver knew or had to know that the electronic document was received as a result of automatic repetition of another document.

Article 12. Receipt of the electronic document

- 12.1. According to the inquiry of the sender or on the basis of the

- agreement between sides the (fact of) receipt of the electronic document should be confirmed by the receiver.
- 12.2 In case if sender's inquiry or agreement between sides is happening during electronic document's transmission or before that, the Article 11.1 of this Law is applied.
 - 12.3 If other cases have not been stipulated in the agreement between sides, confirmation may be accomplished by any notification of the receiver (including that of automated) or by any action of the receiver unequivocally confirming the receipt of the document.
 - 12.4 If other cases have not been stipulated in the agreement between sides, electronic document is not considered as received until confirmation has been received.
 - 12.5 If within the time limit stipulated by the sender or envisioned in the agreement between sides, or if such a time limit was not set, within reasonable period of time confirmation has not been received, the sender:
 - 12.5.1 should inform receiver that he/she has not received the confirmation and identify time period within which confirmation should be sent to him;
 - 12.5.2 if confirmation has not been received within time frame stipulated in the Article 11.5.1 of this Law, by informing the receiver may consider electronic document as not received.
 - 12.6 After the sender has received from the receiver confirmation about the receipt of the electronic document, respective electronic document is considered as received by the receiver. (However) this provision does not certify (affirm) that the content of the received electronic document is the same as one that was sent.
 - 12.7 In the received notification it should be mentioned that electronic document comply with the technical requirements agreed between sides.
 - 12.8 With the exception of relations associated with the dispatch and receipt of electronic documents, Article 11 of this Law does not regulate other relations associated with the content of electronic documents or other issues associated with (coming from) the confirmation of the receipt of the electronic documents.

Article 13. Timing of the dispatch and receipt of the electronic document

- 13.1 If other cases have not been stipulated in the agreement between sides, starting from the time when the electronic document has entered into the electronic system which is not controlled by the sender or anyone acting on behalf of the sender, electronic document is considered as being sent.

- 13.2 If other cases have not been stipulated in the agreement between sides, the moment when the electronic document enters into the electronic system identified by the sender, is considered as its receipt time.

Article 14. Storage of the electronic document

- 14.1 By the observing the following conditions the legislation of the Azerbaijan Republic or agreements between the sides regarding the storage of (electronic) documents is ensured:
- 14.1.1 possessed information provides opportunity for the consequent usage;
 - 14.1.2 electronic document keeps the same format which it had when it was created, transmitted and received;
 - 14.1.3 electronic document allows identification of its sender, receiver, also date and time of its creation or receipt;
 - 14.1.4 if provisions stipulated by the legislation or by the agreement between sides are observed;
- 14.2 Envisioned in the Article 10.1 requirements of this Law regarding storage of the electronic documents are not related to those electronic documents storage of which is not mandatory.
- 14.3 In accordance with the Article 10 of this Law legal or natural persons may use services of other legal and natural persons to store electronic documents.
- 14.4 Rules, conditions and particularities to store electronic documents are stipulated by the respective legislation of Azerbaijan Republic.

Article 15. Protection of the electronic document

- 15.1 Appropriate software (programs) and technical equipment should be used to provide necessary level of protection during creation, usage, transmission and storage of electronic documents.
- 15.2 During circulation of the electronic documents while using information systems and networks, the necessary level of the electronic documents' protection is ensured by the owner of these systems and networks.

Article 16. Services of the information intermediaries.

- 16.1 Storage, transmission and receipt of the electronic documents could be conducted by using services of the information intermediaries.
- 16.2 Information intermediary does not bear responsibility for content of stored, transmitted or received electronic documents.

Chapter 4. ORGANIZATION OF THE ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS CIRCULATION

Article 17. Principles of electronic documents' circulation's organization

Application of the electronic documents is conducted according to the requirements of Azerbaijan Republic's legislation or on the basis of agreements between sides, which entered into mutual relations regarding electronic document circulation.

Article 18. Electronic documents content of which consists of confined (restricted usage) type of information

- 18.1. The content of the electronic document may consists of information constituting state, service or commercial secret, also information distribution of which is prohibited or limited. Rules of usage and protection measures of such information are regulated by the legislation of Azerbaijan Republic.
- 18.2 State agencies, legal and natural persons, and officials admitted by the legislation of Azerbaijan Republic to work with the electronic documents envisioned (listed) in the Article 18.1 of this Law are responsible to take necessary measures to provide security (protection) of these documents.
- 18.3 Persons conducting exchange (circulation) of electronic documents on the basis of signed agreements themselves identify regime of the access to electronic documents content of which consists of confidential information, and the system (methods) of its protection.

Article 19. Requirements to the software (program) and technical equipment used for electronic documents' circulation

- 19.1 Electronic information systems providing circulation of the state owned information or information protection of which is rendered by the state are subject to the state examination conducted in accordance with the rules set by authorized state agencies.
- 19.2 Enciphering means (devices) providing protection to the state owned confidential information, or to information constituting state secrets should be allowed to do that by the respective authorized state agency conducting state policy in the sphere of information's enciphering protection.

Article 20. Certification of the software and technical equipment

Software and technical equipment used to create, use, transmit, store and protect electronic documents are certified in accordance with rules set by the legislation of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Chapter 5. RESPONSIBILITY (LIABILITY) FOR THE VIOLATION OF THE LEGISLATION REGARDING ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS CIRCULATION

Article 21. Responsibility for the violation of the legislation regarding electronic documents' circulation

- 21.1 Persons found guilty in violation of legislation regarding electronic documents circulation bear responsibility in accordance with the rules set by the Azerbaijan Republic's legislation.
- 21.2 (Persons found responsible) for non-provision of services to the persons conducting electronic documents circulation, or provision of low quality services, also for damage inflicted bear responsibility in accordance with the legislation of Azerbaijan Republic.
- 21.3 Persons having in the course of their official duty performance access to electronic documents containing information, dissemination of which is prohibited or limited, bear responsibility in accordance with the legislation of Azerbaijan Republic.

Chapter 6. CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

Article 22. International treaties

In cases when there is contradiction between this Law and intergovernmental (international) treaties that Azerbaijan Republic is party to, international treaties are applied.

Article 23. Coming into effect

This Law is effective from the date of its publication.

THE LAW OF THE AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC ON DIGITAL ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE

Chapter 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

This Law determines legal conditions and regulates relations associated with the usage of the electronic digital signatures.

Article 1. The objective of the Law and its impact (appliance) area

- 1.1 This Law is applied to the relations emerging from the usage of the electronic digital signature by natural and legal persons, state authority agencies and local self-governing agencies (bodies) of Azerbaijan Republic.
- 1.2 This Law is not related to the cases when the legislation of Azerbaijan Republic on hand-written signature is directly applied.

Article 2. Definitions used in this Law

- 2.1. The following definitions are used in this Law:
 - 2.1.1 **electronic digital signature** - particular quality of an electronic document, preventing falsification of the electronic document, revealing, that information in the electronic document was not distorted and designed to identify the owner of the signature certificate, used and controlled solely by the owner of signature certificate, created by the means of electronic digital signatures, added to the electronic document, having with it logical connection, and being in a unique relationships solely with the owner of signature certificate;
 - 2.1.2 **certificate of the electronic digital signature** - printed (on the paper) document and/or electronic document with the electronic digital signature of the certificate services provider, given to the participant of the electronic process to confirm validity of the electronic digital signature or identify (authenticity of) the signature certificate owner;
 - 2.1.3 **owner of the signature certificate** - natural person to whose name the signature certificate was issued and who has opportunity to create his/her own electronic signature;
 - 2.1.4 **means of electronic digital signatures** - equipment and programs (software) certified in accordance with the legislation of

Azerbaijan Republic and ensuring the fulfillment of functions of creation, storage, verification of the authenticity of the electronic digital signatures;

- 2.1.5 **certificates of the means of the electronic digital signatures** - printed (on the paper) document or electronic document issued in accordance with the certification rules to confirm compliance of the means of electronic documents to set (identified) requirements;
- 2.1.6 **certificate services provider** - natural or legal person issuing certificates of electronic digital signatures and providing other services related to electronic digital signature;
- 2.1.7 **confirmation of validity of the electronic digital signature in the electronic document** - positive outcome of the examination conducted to check that the electronic digital signature in the electronic document belongs to the owner of signature certificate and that there are no distortions in the electronic document signed by the same electronic signature;

Article 3. Legislation of Azerbaijan Republic on the electronic digital signature

The legislation of Azerbaijan Republic on the electronic digital signature consists of the Constitution of Azerbaijan Republic, international treaties that Azerbaijan Republic is party to, Civil Code of Azerbaijan Republic, this Law and other regulatory normative-legal decrees of Azerbaijan Republic being part of the legislation of Azerbaijan Republic.

CHAPTER II.

USAGE OF ELECTRONIC DIGITAL SIGNATURE

Article 4. Equalization of the electronic digital signature with the hand-written signature

- 4.1 If the following conditions are simultaneously met electronic digital signature (contained) in the electronic document is held equal to the hand-written signature (contained) on the printed document:
 - 4.1.1. signature certificate issued by provider keeps its validity during time when used by its owner;
 - 4.1.2. validity of the electronic digital signature contained in the electronic document has been confirmed;
 - 4.1.3. electronic digital signature is used in the relations shown in that signature certificate;
- 4.2. Signature certificate is considered as valid in the following cases:

- 4.2.1 signature certificate was given (issued) in accordance with the legislation;
- 4.2.2 the validity of the signature certificate was neither suspended or terminated;
- 4.2.3 electronic digital signature was created by using the certified means of the electronic digital signature creation;
- 4.2.4 the validity period of the signature certificate has not expired.
- 4.3. If information about authority of the signature certificate owner, necessary to conduct these relations is recorded in the signature certificate, electronic digital signature in the electronic document is held equal (in force) to hand-written signature put on paper and endorsed by the stamp.

Article 5. Areas of usage of electronic digital signatures

- 5.1 Electronic digital signature is used as a mean to identify a person who has signed the document, to confirm its integrity and validity.
- 5.2 The following electronic digital signatures used in the relations on the territory of Azerbaijan Republic should be certified:
 - 5.2.1. interchange of electronic documents between participants of information systems enabling fulfillment of the official or (simple) business duties;
 - 5.2.2. interchange of the electronic documents resulting in the relevant responsibilities;
 - 5.2.3. interchange of electronic documents with the state authority agencies and self-governing bodies of Azerbaijan republic;
 - 5.2.4. interchange of the electronic documents content of which consists of financial operations;
- 5.3. (In cases) when electronic documents are involved content of which consists of banking operations, relations are regulated by the normative legal decrees of the National Bank of Azerbaijan Republic.
- 5.4. Information system's participant simultaneously may have several signature certificates. In these cases electronic document signed (endorsed) by the electronic digital signature has legal force only within relations framework shown in the signature certificate.

Article 6. Requirements to the means of electronic digital signatures

- 6.1 Only certified means of the electronic digital signatures are applied on the territory of Azerbaijan Republic. Usage of non-certified means of the electronic digital signatures is reason satisfactory to

- call (summon) to responsibility under legislation of Azerbaijan republic.
- 6.2 Certified means of the electronic digital signatures should ensure creation and uniqueness of the signature.
 - 6.3 Certified means of the electronic digital signatures should ensure fulfillment of the following requirements:
 - 6.3.1 protection of the electronic digital signature;
 - 6.3.2 reliability, secrecy of information and required level of accessibility to it.

CHAPTER III

CERTIFICATE OF THE ELECTRONIC DIGITAL SIGNATURE

Article 7. Issuance of signature certificate

- 7.1 Signature certificate is issued on the basis of agreement completed (reached) between signature certificate provider and the person which applied for the signature certificate.
- 7.2 Signature certificate is issued on the basis of application shown in the Article 8 of this Law and bearing information enabling to identify the signature certificate owner and to transfer information to him.
- 7.3 If signature certificate is issued to (the name of) legal person, the person (that filed the application) should present the copy of the evidence of this legal person's state registration and extract from the register of the legal person's state registration.
- 7.4 If signature certificate is supposed to be used by the legal person, state authority agency or local self-governing body, person that filed the application should present a document confirming his/her authority.
- 7.5 Application is signed by owner of the signature certificate. Shown in the application information is confirmed by presenting respective documents. When signature certificate is book-recorded, uniqueness of the signature is verified in the register or archive of the provider.
- 7.6 Provider should be sure that the applicant has capacity to produce digital electronic signature independently (individually).
- 7.7 If signature certificate is issued on the paper, signature certificate is prepared by provider in two samples. Both samples are signed by the signature certificate owner and provider and are confirmed by the stamp of provider. One copy of the signature certificate is given to the signature certificate owner, another is kept by provider.

- 7.8 Signature certificates for the persons using them on behalf of the state authority agencies of Azerbaijan Republic are issued according to the rules envisioned by this Law by the respective executive authority agencies of Azerbaijan Republic.
- 7.9 Signature certificate without delay should be registered by its provider (in the register) from its validity's starting time (from the coming into force time).
- 7.10 Immediately after provider has registered the information about (issued) signature certificate in its own register, he/she is responsible to forward this information to the respective state authority agency to register it in the unified state register.

Article 8. Content of the signature certificate

- 8.1 The following information should be reflected in the signature certificate:
 - 8.1.1 the registration number of the signature certificate;
 - 8.1.2 last, first and the middle (father) name of the signature certificate's owner;
 - 8.1.3 identification document's type and number, if the signature certificate owner is also a provider, his/her license's number;
 - 8.1.4 names of the means of the electronic digital signatures used by the signature certificate owner and by the provider;
 - 8.1.5 starting and expiration time of the signature certificate's validity;
 - 8.1.6 name and address of the provider that issued a certificate, and also the country where it was established;
 - 8.1.7 electronic digital signature of the provider;
 - 8.1.8 legally important relations that the electronic document bearing electronic digital signature is involved in;
 - 8.1.9 limitations put on the usage of the electronic digital signature regarding the amount (of money) it may be applied to;
- 8.2 When in the necessary cases authentication is required, additional information is presented on the basis of documents contained in the signature certificate; on the basis of written request (application) - nickname of the signature certificate owner.
- 8.3 Upon request (demand) of the applying person, provider is responsible for checking authorization of the requestor to act on behalf of the third party, and write down (record) information related to his/her specialty and license. On the basis of demand of requestor additional (shown) information should be proved by confirming documents.
- 8.4 To identify the ownership of the electronic digital signature, the date and time of its issuance, information about validity of the

signature certificate (valid, suspended, time of suspension, terminated, date and time of termination) and other registered information about signature certificate is provided to the information system's participant. The signature certificate and other information, if provided as a document printed on the paper, this certificate is written on provider's letterhead-form and endorsed by him. If signature certificate and additional information are given in the form of an electronic document, this certificate should be endorsed with the electronic digital signature of the provider.

Article 9. Duties of the signature certificate owner.

- 9.1 The signature certificate owner bear the following responsibilities:
 - 9.1.1 has a knowledge enabling creation of the electronic digital signature;
 - 9.1.2 furnish provider(s) of the certification services with information necessary for authentication;
 - 9.1.3 to keep confidential the secret of its own electronic digital signature's creation;
 - 9.1.4 if attempts were made to break illegally its electronic digital signature, immediately inform respective provider about it, and if there is a sufficient ground to believe that the secret of the electronic digital signature is no longer confidential - file a written application to provider to terminate signature certificate.
 - 9.1.5 immediately inform provider about any change in the information contained in the signature certificate;
 - 9.1.6 to use electronic digital signature within legal framework (relationship) shown in the signature certificate.
- 9.2 Liability for the damage in the result of violation of the responsibilities contained in the Article 9.1 of this Law lies with the owner of the signature certificate.

Article 10. Instructing of the signature certificate owner

- 10.1 Provider should instruct the signature certificate owner about reliable protection of the electronic digital signature. Provider should inform the person that applied to him about necessity to change regularly the secret of creation and authentication of the electronic digital signature to provide its reliably protection.
- 10.2 Provider is responsible for informing the signature certificate owner with the conditions making electronic digital signature equal to the hand-written signature.

- 10.3 The fact of instruction is reflected (written) on the paper and is confirmed by the hand-written signature of the signature certificate owner.

Article 11. Suspension of the signature certificate

- 11.1 The force (validity) of the signature certificate may be suspended by the signature certificate owner or by the provider upon demand of the agencies having authority to suspend the validity of the signature certificate.
- 11.2 (Force of) the signature certificate may be suspended in the following cases:
- 11.2.1 if electronic digital signature is used in the relations not envisioned in that signature certificate - on the basis of application of the information system's participant;
- 11.2.2 if financial-economical activities of the signature certificate's owner are inspected - on the basis of application by the respective executive authority agency of Azerbaijan Republic;
- 11.2.3 if criminal prosecution is conducted over signature certificate owner - in accordance with rules identified by the legislation of Azerbaijan Republic.
- 11.3 After the order has been received to suspend the validity of the signature certificate, provider of the certification services should make the respective record in the register about the date of the signature certificate's suspension, the time and period of suspension, also inform about it the signature certificate's owner, the information system's participant or the agency that issued the order to suspend the validity of the signature certificate.
- 11.4 The validity of the signature certificate is suspended for the period shown in the request (order) to the signature certificate owner or (in the request) of an agency that has authority to suspend the signature certificate. If the information system's participant files application that the electronic digital signature is used in relations not foreseen in the signature certificate, the validity of the signature certificate is suspended for the period foreseen in the agreement about provision of certification services.
- 11.5 After suspension period of the signature certificate has expired the validity of the signature certificate is restored.
- 11.6 The procedure to suspend the validity of the signature certificate is stipulated by the respective executive authority agency of Azerbaijan Republic.

- 11.7 In accordance with the rules stipulated in the legislation of Azerbaijan Republic appeal may be made regarding suspension of the signature certificate's validity.

Article 12. Termination of the signature certificate

- 12.1 In the following cases the provider that issued the respective signature certificate should terminate it:
- 12.1.1 on the basis of written application (request) of the signature certificate owner or its authorized representative;
 - 12.1.2 if the signature certificate contains information about the third party - on the basis of written application (request) of the third party;
 - 12.1.3 the validity period of the signature certificate is expired;
 - 12.1.4 if validity period of certificates of the respective means of electronic digital signatures is expired;
 - 12.1.5 if it was revealed that the signature certificate was issued on the basis of false information or if provider knows for sure that the document on which basis the signature certificate was issued has lost its validity;
 - 12.1.6 in cases stipulated in the agreement reached between sides (parties);
 - 12.1.7 by the decision of the court;
 - 12.1.8 in the cases stipulated by the Article 17.6 of this Law;
 - 12.1.9 in other cases stipulated by the legislation of Azerbaijan Republic.
- 12.2 If signature certificate has been terminated, by entering information into the respective register provider informs information system's participants about its termination, shows the date and time of termination, also informs about it the owner of the signature certificate.
- 12.3 The procedure to terminate the signature certificate is defined by the respective executive authority agency of Azerbaijan Republic.
- 12.4 The appeal can be made in accordance with the rules set by the legislation of Azerbaijan Republic regarding termination of the signature certificate.

Article 13. Storage rules and period for documents related to the certification services

- 13.1 The signature certificate is kept by the provider during the entire validity period, and after termination - within the period which is foreseen by the legislation for those relations that are shown in the signature certificate.

- 13.2 After this keeping period is finished, the signature certificate is taken from the register of the signature certificates and is put in the archive. Storage period in the archive and the rules under which copies of the signature certificate are issued are determined by the legislature of Azerbaijan Republic.
- 13.3 During the signature certificate's storage period provider should provide easy access of the information system's participants to that certificate.
- 13.4 Provider is responsible to keep in custody the following documents:
 - 13.4.1 documents related to the issues of protection of certificate services;
 - 13.4.2 documents related to the (issues of) termination of the provider's activities;
 - 13.4.3 agreements signed with the signature certificate owners;
 - 13.4.4 signature certificate of provider;
 - 13.4.5 copies of the documents on which basis signature certificate was issued;
 - 13.4.6 documents confirming that the signature certificate owners were instructed;
 - 13.4.7 signature certificates given by provider;
 - 13.4.8 documents about suspension of the signature certificate's validity;
 - 13.4.9 documents related to termination of the signature certificate;
- 13.5 Kept (in custody) by the provider documents related to the certificate services, should be protected from non-permitted intrusion and alteration.

CHAPTER IV ACTIVITIES OF THE CERTIFICATE SERVICES PROVIDERS

Article 14. General requirements to providers

- 14.1 In accordance with the rules foreseen by the legislation of Azerbaijan Republic, natural or legal persons having licenses for the provision of the certificate services may act as providers.
- 14.2 License to provide certificate services is issued by the respective executive authority agency of Azerbaijan Republic. The rules to issue the license for provision of certificate services are determined by the respective executive authority agency of Azerbaijan Republic.
- 14.3 If other rules are not set by the legislation of Azerbaijan Republic, provider should obtain its signature certificate from the respective executive authority agency of Azerbaijan Republic.

- 14.4 Provider should have necessary material (financial) and technical resources to be able to provide certificate services.
- 14.5 Provider should have sufficient financial resources (to be able) to compensate (as a part of its civic responsibilities) for the (potential) damage that it may cause to the signature certificate owner or to the information system's participant while providing certificate services.
- 14.6 Requirements to provider's material and financial capacities constitute necessary component of the certification services' certification (legalization) and are set by the respective executive authority agency of Azerbaijan Republic.

Article 15. Functions of the Providers

- 15.1 Provider fulfills the following functions:
 - 15.1.1 issues signature certificates;
 - 15.1.2 suspends validity of the signature certificates, restore or terminates them;
 - 15.1.3 registers (in the register) valid, suspended or terminated signature certificates, timely update register information and provides easy access of the information system's participants to that register.
 - 15.1.4 on the basis of application submitted by the information system's participants checks the validity of the signature certificate registered by the provider itself.

Article 16. Duties of providers

- 16.1 Certificate services provider fulfills the following functions:
 - 16.1.1 conduct activities in accordance with normative-legal decrees regulating provision of certification services and with the contract (signed) for provision of those services;
 - 16.1.2 keeps records (registers) of signature certificates in the register;
 - 16.1.3 provides issuance of the signature certificate to the person which applied to it to obtain the signature certificate;
 - 16.1.4 in accordance with the rules foreseen by the legislation suspends the validity, restores or terminates the signature certificates;
 - 16.1.5 informs signature certificate owners about information which became available to it and which may impact noticeably the consequent usage of the electronic digital signature;
 - 16.1.6 instructs signature certificate owner on how to protect reliably electronic digital signature;
 - 16.1.7 uses only certified means of the electronic digital signatures;

- 16.1.8 instructs the signature certificate owner in accordance with the Article 10 of this Law;
- 16.2 Provider, immediately after it has finished all actions that needed to issue, suspend, restore or terminate signature certificates, should deliver relevant information to the unified state register.
- 16.3 Provider issuing signature certificates should ensure reliable authentication of the signature certificate owner.
- 16.4 Provider should guarantee non-proliferation of information that became available to him in the result of the service provided to the signature certificate owner.

Article 17. Termination of provider's activities.

- 17.1 Rule and basis to terminate activities of providers are determined by the legislation of Azerbaijan Republic.
- 17.2 Provider that decided to stop its activities should inform respective executive authority agency of Azerbaijan Republic three months in advance.
- 17.3 Provider that stops its activities should inform in person and three months in advance all signature certificate owners that received certificates from it, and also take all necessary steps to inform any information system's participant that was involved in any form of relations with it.
- 17.4 With the consent of the signature certificate owner, within one month provider may transfer provision of certification services to another provider or to the provider identified by the signature certificate owner.
- 17.5 If the signature certificate owner disagree with the transfer of obligations of certification services to another provider, until the signature certificate owner identifies a new provider, the respective executive authority agency of Azerbaijan Republic becomes temporary provider of those signature certificates. Certification services are provided by temporary provider free of charge.
- 17.6 The owner of the signature certificate should identify its future provider within two months. If the signature certificate owner has not determined its future provider within two months, temporary provider will terminate the signature certificate.

Article 18. Responsibilities of providers

- 18.1 Provider bears responsibilities originating from the requirements of this Law and from the agreement (contract) about provision of the certification services. Disputes originating from the provision of

the certification services are resolved according to the rules foreseen by the legislation of Azerbaijan Republic.

- 18.2 If provider violates requirements of this Law and conditions of the agreement (contract) about provision of certification services, in accordance with the legislation of Azerbaijan Republic provider should compensate for the damage caused to the signature certificate owner and third persons in the result of its actions (inaction).
- 18.3 Provider is not responsible for the damage originating from the illegal use of the signature certificate by the owner of the signature certificate, violation of the conditions of the agreement or in the result of wrongdoing of the signature certificate owner or the third persons.

CHAPTER V. REGULATION OF THE RELATIONS IN THE SPHERE OF THE ELECTRONIC DIGITAL SIGNATURE USAGE BY THE STATE

Article 19. Unified state register of the signature certificates

- 19.1 Information about signature certificates issued on the territory of Azerbaijan Republic is registered in the unified state register. The following information is included in the unified state register:
 - 19.1.1 about signature certificates issued by the providers;
 - 19.1.2 about signature certificates given to providers;
 - 19.1.3 about signature certificates issued to the authorized representatives of the state authority agencies and local self-governing bodies of Azerbaijan Republic.
- 19.2 Information from the unified state register of signature certificates is provided to the information system's participants in accordance with this Law.
- 19.3 The record keeping rules in the unified state register of signature certificates are determined by the respective executive authority agency of Azerbaijan Republic.

Article 20. Authority of the respective executive authority agency of Azerbaijan Republic in the sphere of the electronic digital signature's usage.

- 20.1 In the sphere of the electronic digital signature's usage respective executive authority agency of Azerbaijan Republic has the following authority:

- 20.1.1 makes decision about issuing a license to certification services provider;
- 20.1.2 issues signature certificates to providers;
- 20.1.3 in cases when this Law is violated by provider, initiates (files) the case before court to terminate provider's license;
- 20.1.4 keeps records in the unified state register;
- 20.1.5 provides easy access of information system's participants to the unified state register;
- 20.1.6 controls activities of providers and how they use certified means of electronic digital signature;

Article 21. Responsibility of the respective executive authority agency of Azerbaijan Republic in the sphere of the electronic digital signature's usage

- 21.1 In the sphere of the electronic digital signature's usage respective executive authority agency of Azerbaijan Republic has the following duties:
 - 21.1.1 during three days after signature certificate comes into effect publish in the media the authentication secret of its own signature;
 - 21.1.2 provide necessary level of protection to its own electronic digital signature;
 - 21.1.3 inform signature certificate owners and providers about facts which became available to it and which may noticeably impact future chances to use this or another electronic digital signature;
 - 21.1.4 immediately terminate its own signature certificate, if attempts were made to break illegally its (own) electronic digital signature, also if there are sufficient reasons to believe that the creation secret of the electronic digital signature was revealed;
 - 21.1.5 liquidate signature certificate issued to provider if provider's activities were stopped or its license has been terminated.
- 21.2 Respective executive authority agency of Azerbaijan Republic provides easy access of information system's participants to the following information:
 - 21.2.1 names of providers, their address and contact means;
 - 21.2.2 list of licenses issued to providers, suspended and terminated licenses;
 - 21.2.3 list of issued signature certificates, suspended, restored and terminated signature certificates.

Article 22. Recognition of the foreign signature certificates

Foreign signature certificate validity of which was appropriately confirmed in accordance with the legislation of a country where it was registered, are effective on the territory of Azerbaijan Republic in accordance with the international treaties that Azerbaijan Republic is party to.

CHAPTER VI. CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

Article 23. Responsibility (liability) for the violation of the legislation on the electronic digital signature

23.1 Persons found guilty for the violation of legislation on the electronic digital signature bear responsibility in accordance with the legislation of Azerbaijan Republic.

Article 24. Coming into effect

This Law is effective from the date of its publication.

ELECTRONIC TRADE LAW

Chapter I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

The object of this Law consists in defining rules to conclude contracts by using electronic documents on the territory of Azerbaijan Republic.

Article 1. Main definitions

The following terms and definitions are used in this Law:

- 1.1 *Electronic trade* - entrepreneurial activities in selling goods, doing works (businesses) and providing services when interchange of electronic documents is involved;
- 1.2 *Electronic trade participant* - person or client (customer) conducting electronic trade;
- 1.3 *Person conducting electronic trade* - natural or legal person carrying entrepreneurial activities in selling goods, doing works (businesses) and providing services by using electronic documents;
- 1.4 *Customer* - natural or legal person having on the basis of contract (signed) with the person conducting electronic trade the right to obtain goods, works and services, and also other rights;

Article 2. Principles of electronic trade

- 2.1 Electronic trade's legal regulation is based on the principles of equality of participants, free will, freedom of contract, free conduct of entrepreneurial activities, also on the free movement of goods, services and financial resources on the territory of Azerbaijan Republic, also on the guarantee of the court protection of rights of the electronic trade's participants.
- 2.2 With the exception of cases stipulated by the legislation, restrictions cannot be imposed on the acquisition and fulfillment of rights and duties of the natural and legal persons in the sphere of electronic trade.

Article 3. Legislation on electronic trade

The legislation of Azerbaijan Republic on electronic trade consists of the Constitution of Azerbaijan Republic, this Law, other legislative acts (decrees) of Azerbaijan Republic and international treaties that Azerbaijan Republic is party to.

CHAPTER 2. CONCLUSION OF CONTRACTS IN ELECTRONIC TRADE

Article 4. Conclusion of contracts by interchange of electronic documents

- 4.1 Contract in electronic trade is concluded by exchange of electronic documents, allowing to identify that (electronic) document has come (has been originated) from the party to the contract.
- 4.2 With the exception of cases stipulated by the legislation, contracts concluded in electronic trade cannot be considered invalid only because they were concluded and (or) executed by interchange of the electronic documents.
- 4.3 If by agreement of parties (sides) the contract is signed by using electronic documents, conditions of this contract and obligations emanating from it cannot be contested (disputed) only because it was concluded by interchange of the electronic documents.
- 4.4 In accordance with the legislation of Azerbaijan Republic contracts which should be certified by notary (rules) or should pass the state registration, cannot be concluded by interchange of the electronic documents.

Article 5. Written form of contracts concluded by interchange of the electronic documents

If in accordance with the legislation of Azerbaijan Republic or by agreement of sides requirement was identified to conclude the contract in the simple written form, the contract concluded by interchange of electronic documents is considered as meeting this requirement.

Article 6. Rule to conclude contract in electronic trade

- 6.1 When contract is concluded in electronic trade, proposal (offer) of the one side and consent (acceptance) of the other is in the form of the electronic documents.
- 6.2 Offer can be made (sent) by the offerer itself, by the person authorized to act (conduct businesses) on the behalf of the offerer or information system acting automatically on behalf of the offerer.
- 6.3 If other cases are not stipulated by the legislation of Azerbaijan Republic, the contract is considered as concluded from the time when accept is received by the person that made the offer.

- 6.4 If other cases are not originating from the legislation or previous business relations among sides, silence is not considered as acceptance.
- 6.5 If other cases are not agreed between the sender and the receiver of the electronic document, the confirmation of the receipt of the electronic document is not considered as its accept.

Article 7. Conditions of the contract in electronic trade.

- 7.1 Contracts concluded in electronic trade should meet the requirements of Azerbaijan Republic's legislation.
- 7.2 It may be anticipated that certain provisions of the contract concluded in electronic trade may be included into that contract by the referral to the electronic information put (contained) in the open information system. In that case the side, which put the electronic information (into the system), should provide unrestricted access to this information during the contract's execution period, and after that period should guarantee its storage in accordance with the rule envisioned by this Law.
- 7.3 Offer made with the aim to conclude a contract in electronic trade, including offer made to the unspecified circle of persons reflects all provisions stipulated by the legislation, including important conditions listed below.
- 7.3.1 rule to conclude contract by using electronic information;
- 7.3.2 possibility and rule to make changes when negotiating conditions of the contract;
- 7.3.3 sending and revoking of the accept made (delivered) by the electronic mean;
- 7.3.4 conditions put into the contract by the referral to the electronic information in open information system;
- 7.4 Invitation to the offer made by the participant of electronic trade, should contain all conditions, that the offer itself should contain, or should contain referral to electronic data (information).

CHAPTER 3. PERSONS CONDUCTING ELECTRONIC TRADE

Article 8. Legal status of persons conducting electronic trade

- 8.1 Electronic trade in Azerbaijan Republic shall be (may be) conducted by legal persons or natural persons eligible to perform entrepreneurial activities without creating legal personality.

- 8.2 With the exception of the cases shown in the legislation about licensing certain business activities, the right to conduct electronic trade is present (from the time) when legal persons pass the state registration or from the time when natural persons are registered as individual entrepreneurs.

Article 9. Duties to provide information by persons conducting electronic trade

- 9.1 Persons conducting electronic trade should provide information about their legal status and activities to the customers and authorized state bodies, also provide access to this information,
- 9.2 Persons conducting electronic trade should provide the following information about their legal status:
- 9.2.1 name of the legal person or the first, the last and the middle name of the individual entrepreneur;
- 9.2.2 address (location) of the legal person or location, post and e-mail address of the individual entrepreneur;
- 9.2.3 register information of the legal person and the number of the certificate to conduct entrepreneurial activities of the individual entrepreneur;
- 9.2.4 when required by the legislation, the number, duration period and the name of the state body that issued the license;
- 9.3 Information sent to the customers by the persons conducting electronic trade about their activities, also proposal containing the offer should meet the following requirements:
- 9.3.1 allow (make possible) customers without especial knowledge to find out that the sent information is related to the electronic trade;
- 9.3.2 legal person or individual entrepreneur on which behalf information is sent, should be precisely identified;
- 9.3.3 information presented by the persons conducting electronic trade about goods and services, their prices and purchasing conditions;
- 9.3.4 such conditions as discount in price, bonuses and gifts should be precisely shown, and requirements to meet these conditions should be simple, clear and unequivocal;
- 9.3.5 conditions of the games organized to attract customers should be simple and clear.

CHAPTER 4. CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

Article 10. International treaties (contracts)

If rules identified in the international treaties that Azerbaijan Republic is party to, are different from the rules envisioned in this Law, the rules of the international treaties shall be applied.

Article 11. Coming into effect

This Law is effective from the date of its publication.

The 10 Fundamental Principles of the Information Society

The 10 FP aim at defining the main directions for developing a knowledge-based sustainable economy and bridging the digital divide among and within countries, across different social groups in society, particularly vulnerable groups, etc. The gender dimension is an important component of a successful e-inclusion strategy. Bridging the digital divide in its various forms is a condition for achieving the MDGs.

These core principles represent a joint vision of UN Economic Commission for Europe and UNDP for Europe and the CIS and have a practical purpose and orientation: i.e. to provide an agreed framework for identifying the critical factors and dimensions of policy performance for the Information Societies and Knowledge-based economies. They will be used then as a classification tool for benchmarking performance and measuring progress towards achieving common objectives and promoting best practices. They can be taken in the follow-up process as the basis for peer dialogue and review of national e-strategies at the regional level.

The Principles result from the collection and systematic integration of the principles established by several prominent policy exercises of the recent past. In particular:

- o the Okinawa Charter
- o the 9 action points of the Genoa Plan of Action of the G8
- o the E-Europe 2005 Action Plan of the EU and the E-Europe+ Plan for the candidate countries
- o the OECD Guidelines on e-commerce, on security of information systems, etc.
- o the 10 fundamental principles on e-commerce of the ICC, BIAC, etc.
- o the "Knowledge-based Economy Indicators" of the Centre for international development at Harvard University
- o Digital Opportunity Report (UNDP, Markle Foundation, Accenture)

Principle 1 Public rights to information.

Transparency is an essential condition for the functioning of the market economy and democratic governance. Transparency in business and government can be assured by establishing the right of the public to have access to basic information concerning corporate governance and policy making. It is not sufficient, as it used to be in the past, that the government provides some minimum basic information directly as a public good. It is necessary that the government ensures access to publicly relevant information through an appropriate regulatory and policy environment (e.g. disclosure obligations, standards), makes decision makers in the public and private sector accountable for their decisions, provides infrastructures for analysing the impact of such decisions on the economy, society and the environment. The UNECE Convention on "Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters" (Aarhus Convention) is a good example of how the involvement of civil society, the recognition of the individual right to access information and participate in decision-making is an effective instrument of democracy and good governance. Modern information technology can greatly enhance the possibility for timely access to information and thereby facilitate public participation in decision-making processes.

Principle 2. Legal, regulatory and policy environment.

Such environment is essential to provide access, consolidate the infrastructures, promote applicability and applications, and ensure data protection. The legal framework should cover intellectual property rights, consumer protection, data confidentiality and disclosure obligations. An appropriate regulatory environment is also necessary for competition, taxation and customs, jurisdiction and conflict resolution, for attracting investment, encouraging savings, fighting against corruption and red tape. It is important to recognise the role of the private sector, and the contribution that can be given by open fair and competitive markets. The promotion therefore of entrepreneurship and enterprise development plays an important role. Over-regulation should be avoided. Users should be protected with regard to privacy and security. Choice, individual empowerment, self-regulation and industry-led solutions should be favoured. The freedom of the press and the media should be guaranteed. Interoperability should be facilitated within an international voluntary and consensus-based environment for standard setting.

Principle 3. Access: develop infrastructure.

This infrastructure should offer fast reliable secure and affordable access. Establishing and upgrading the appropriate infrastructure requires both public investments and the collaboration with the private sector. Best practise has to be determined in relation to public private partnerships.

Principle 4. Networked learning, education and training

It is essential to build human capacity through education, training, knowledge creation and sharing, research and development, effective skill and labour markets. ICT literacy has to be maintained through lifelong learning.

Principle 5. Affordability and other users issues.

Affordability is an important issue: e.g. the provision of affordable hardware and communication services and publicly available facilities aimed at underserved areas and segments of the population (community access programmes). Affordability requires the partnership between the public and the private sectors.

Principle 6. E-government: more effectiveness and accountability.

There are many possible applications, such as e-procurement; e-taxes, e-customs; on-line delivery of government services (at national and local level). E-government has to be linked to public administration reform: in order in fact to fully exploit the benefits of the information society, we need an effective public administration. ICT can be a condition and an implication of effective public administration, and public administration reform. Use of ICT for better government and better policies has to be promoted at all levels: local national and international.

Principle 7. E-business: more competitiveness and better jobs.

The development of ICT changes not only the internal operation of enterprises, but also their relations with clients (B2C) and with other business (B2B). It can promote access to markets for small and medium enterprises, particularly national and international markets. It affects transaction costs and business practises. It can promote also a more open and dynamic organisational culture, the up-skilling of jobs, more productivity and better wages, more workers' participation in decision-making.

Principle 8. E-society: support of local communities.

ICT applications offer unprecedented opportunities in all domains of daily life of people, households and civil society organisations. For individuals this means enhancing the use of ICT in work, in business transactions, in shopping, but also in access to culture, health, education (e-learning), entertainment and social services. Promoting locally relevant content is important for local communities (local news and languages, local heritage, participation of local stakeholders, vulnerable groups, community groups).

Principle 9. National e-strategies.

In order to mainstream the information society into the national strategies for development, a systematic approach to national policies has to be promoted, bringing together different policy domains in a consistent framework. E-strategies need the highest level of national political commitment and must be tailor made to the specific requirements of each country.

Governments should commit themselves to develop comprehensive information society strategies. Moreover, they should commit themselves to involve in the formulation and implementation of such strategies all relevant stakeholders, particularly business organisations and civil society. These strategies should be the result of an open inclusive and consultative process involving all relevant partners and must be mainstreamed into national Poverty Reduction Strategies where necessary. They should be regularly monitored, reviewed, updated, and benchmarked internationally. They should be reinforced by regional and sub-regional coordination efforts, notably in the context of economic integration. Weaker countries should be supported in the development of such e-Strategies. The Dot-Force of the G8 has provided much guidance and promoted relevant experience on national e-strategies. The regional dimension is the most appropriate to promote the exchange of experience on

national e-strategies, identify best practise, monitor performance, engage in peer dialogue and reviews.

Principle 10. The international dimension of the information society: the role of e-policy dialogue at regional level.

ICT technologies are a powerful driving force for international integration at global, regional and sub-regional level. They require at the same time support and guidance from the international community in relation to: the promotion of standards and norms; the transfer of know-how and technical assistance; the exchange of experience and identification of best practise.

補 足

補 足

1. Microsoft Windows における多言語対応状況

(1) 多言語サポートについて

WindowsXP Professional は標準状態で 135 ロケールにて文書を表示、入力、編集、及び出力することができる。これには、ユーザー又は管理者、地域の設定、フォント、キーボードレイアウト、並べ替え（ソート）順、通貨フォーマットなどの設定が含まれる。ただし、メニューやファイル名などのユーザーインターフェース、ヘルプファイルの内容などは、元の言語バージョンで表示される。

(2) Multilingual User Interface Pack (MUI) による多言語対応機能の拡張

MUI を英語版 WindowsXP Professional へ追加インストールすることにより、[スタート] メニューや [プログラム] メニュー、警告ボックスやダイアログボックス、ヘルプとサポートセンターなど、オペレーティングシステムの大半のユーザーインターフェースが、ユーザーの選択した言語で表示することが可能になる。ただし、MUI は企業ユーザー向けボリュームライセンスプログラムを通じてのみ提供されており、個人単位での購入は原則としてできない。

WindowsXP	言語版	表示と入力／編集に対応する言語	ユーザーインターフェース、ヘルプファイルの内容
英語版	英語	135 ロケール	英語
各国語ローカライズ版 (日本語版など)	24 公認言語版	135 ロケール	ローカライズ対象の各国語で表示。ただしユーザーごとに表示言語切り替え不可。
英語版 + MUI	33 言語に対応	135 ロケール	各国語で表示。ユーザーごとに対応言語の範囲内で切り替え可能。

(3) Microsoft Office 2003 での多言語対応

上記は、オペレーティングシステム (OS) のみの対応状況であり、同時に OS 上で動作するアプリケーションの多言語対応状況も考慮する必要がある。ここでは、例として、Microsoft Office 2003 を取り上げる。Office 2003 についても、標準で 135 以上のロケールに対応しており、それぞれの言語について、表示、編集は可能であるが、スペルチェックやオートコレクトなどの追加機能はすべての言語に対応していない。「Office 2003 Editions with MUI Pack」の導入により、メニューやヘルプファイル、追加機能まで含めた多言語対応が可能となる。

Office 2003	言語版	表示と入力／編集 に対応する言語	ユーザーインターフェース、 ヘルプファイルの内容
英語版	英 語	135 ロケール	英 語
各国語ローカライズ版	36 言語版	135 ロケール	ローカライズ対象の各国語で 表示。ただしユーザーごとに 表示言語切り替え不可。
英語版＋ MUI	33 言語に対応	135 ロケール	各国語で表示。ユーザーごと に対応言語の範囲内で切り替 え可能。

(4) 調査対象となったグルジア、アゼルバイジャンでの状況

今回調査したグルジアとアゼルバイジャンについては、いずれも Windows XP が標準でサポートするロケールである。しかし、各国語ローカライズ版、及び MUI サポートはない。したがって、主として英語（ロシア語）版 Windows XP 上でグルジア語、アゼルバイジャン語を使用することになるため、メニューやヘルプは英語（ロシア語）表記となる。入力に必須となるキーボードについては、アゼルバイジャン語キーボードの存在は確認できたが、グルジア語版キーボードについては、今回の調査では確認できていない。

(5) 参考 URL

- ・ Windows XP の多言語機能
<http://www.microsoft.com/japan/technet/prodtechnol/winxppro/plan/multilingual.msp>
- ・ Microsoft Office 2003 の多言語対応状況
<http://www.microsoft.com/japan/office/editions/prodinfo/language/default.msp>

(6) 多言語対応の拡張

2004 年 3 月 16 日、Microsoft 社は、Local Language Program (LLP) を通して、各国政府に Windows XP や Office 2003 の自国語版を開発するための、Language Interface Pack (LIP: 言語インターフェースパック) を無償で提供することを発表した。また、同社は LLP を推進するプロジェクトとして、Community Glossary Project (コミュニティー用語プロジェクト) を開始した。これは Windows XP や Office 2003 で使われている用語を翻訳する作業で、LLP に参加する政府組織や言語コミュニティーを中心に運営される。運営組織が任命したリーダーが翻訳作業のスケジュールを決定し、翻訳作業を管理しながら、翻訳語の用語集が作られる。最後に Microsoft 社がプログラム化し、テストを繰り返して LIP は完成する。全プロセスにおよそ 3 か月が費やされるという。

2004 年 11 月 17 日、Microsoft は UNESCO と同社製アプリケーションの言語対応強化を目的とした契約を締結した。同契約の下で UNESCO は、Microsoft 社の LLP を支援するコンサルティングを行う。

(7) 参考リンク

- ・ Microsoft 社 WindowsXP と Office 2003 における LIP
<http://www.microsoft.com/Resources/Government/LocalLanguage.aspx>
- ・ UNESCO と Microsoft 社の契約に関するプレスリリース
<http://www.microsoft.com/emea/presscentre/PressRelease.aspx?file=MSUNESCOPREMEA.xml>

2. Internet eXchange (IX) Pointについて

(1) IX の役割

IXとは、複数のインターネットサービスプロバイダーや学術ネットワークを相互に接続するインターネット上の相互接続ポイントであり、高速道路で言うジャンクションに相当する。

日本においては、基幹回線は東京、大阪のIX（NSPIXP）に集結し、相互接続されていることが多い。そこでは、全国のネットワークからのトラフィックが集中していることによる高負荷を招き、各ネットワーク間の往復に要する時間や、情報損失（パケットロス）の増大という危険性が増大することになる。

また、NSPIXPにおける災害や障害の発生が、地域のインターネット利用の停止につながる可能性がある。更には、地域内で完結すべき情報が、不必要にNSPIXPを経由することにより、必然的に通信経路が長くなり、データの盗聴・改ざん等の可能性を高める危険がある。

(2) 地域IXの役割

本来、地域の情報は東京・大阪経由ではなく、地域内で円滑に交換し合うべきものであり、地域情報の流通の迅速化、効率化のためには、地域におけるインターネット網の整備が必要になる。地域内でのトラフィック増加に対応するには、地域内のプロバイダー間で相互に（メッシュ状に）接続していくよりも、IXにより点で接続したほうが効率的である。

地域IXには、地域内通信（地域内に始点・終点をもつ通信）の高速化や効率化、及び、冗長な経路をなくすことによる安全な通信経路の確保等の役割が期待される。また、地域の情報通信基盤という位置づけから、地域内の情報流通及びコミュニケーションの円滑化による地域情報化の促進及び地域活性化が期待できる。

更には、その役割から地域内のNetwork Operation Center（NOC）としての機能と地域情報化支援センター的な機能が期待されることになる。

(3) 地域IXの効果

① 教育部門

IXによるデータ送受信能力の向上により、インターネットの画像・映像を利用した教育や、学校間の遠隔共同学習や情報交流がより快適に行えるようになる。異なるプロバイダー経由でインターネットを利用している学校間の情報交流に効果があると思われる。

② 行政部門

地域住民に対する行政情報の円滑な提供や、今後、特に福祉・医療分野で利用が進むと思われる画像データの送受信が円滑化されることが期待される。また、インターネットの地域内利用におけるセキュリティが向上することにより、E-government推進など、住民との情報交流や関連機関との連携促進が期待できる。