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**To the Rector of
Azerbaijan University**

May, 26

Dear Saadat Namig Aliyeva!

The Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR) expresses its gratitude for your trust in education quality assessment and informs that at the meeting of the Accreditation Council on May 26, 2023 (Minutes No. 74) the following recommendations of the External Expert Panel aimed at further improving the quality of the educational programme **050807 Social Work (Bachelor's Degree)** were adopted:

Standard «POLICY FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE»

1) Make sure the Strategic Plan as well as other relevant plans clearly breakdown the intention for the QA development by introducing an explicit timeline, indicators, financial allocations, and other important elements of such documents (in 6 months after publishing of this report).

2) Make sure more investment into staffing of the QA Department and its activities is done (in 9 months after publishing of this report).

3) Make sure QA activities clearly and effectively cover all main functions of the departments, faculties and the university (in 12 months after publishing this report).

4) Make sure QA activities are focused on academic as well as non-academic staff of the institution (in 12 months after publishing his report).

5) Consider a possibility to facilitate access to the antiplagiarism software for students (in 6 months after publishing this report).

6) Make sure the AU finds an adequate response to the spread of AI, especially in relation to student written works (in 12 months after publishing this report).

Standard «DESIGN AND APPROVAL OF PROGRAMS»

1) Make sure the management of the study program develops mechanisms for expanding the participation of employers and students in the development of the educational program and diversify the range of external examinations of the content of the educational program (in 12 months after publication of this report)

2) Make sure the students are involved more extensively in the formation of the Development Plan of the study program 050807 "Social Work", get familiar them with the possibility of choosing individual trajectories in the study program, and to ensure the implementation of the chosen individual trajectories (in 12 months after publication of this report).

Standard «STUDENT-CENTRED LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT»

1) Create an association of graduates of the study program, develop an action plan of its work (9 months after the publication of this report).

2) Evaluate the organization of the educational process in an electronic format (12 months after the publication of this report).

Standard «STUDENT ADMISSION, PROGRESSION, RECOGNITION AND CERTIFICATION»

1) Make sure students and the staff have good chance for international cooperation not only with European but also Asian higher education institutions (12 months after publication of this report).

2) Consider a possibility to prepare for certification courses in broader areas, for example: clinical social work, palliative work, counseling with the provision of documents confirming the completion of training (12 months after publication of this report)

Standard «TEACHING STAFF»

1) Develop a roadmap for external incoming and outgoing academic mobility of academic staff (4 months after publication of this report).

2) Make sure there are invited teachers (at least 2 per year) within the framework of on-line and off-line mobility, including that at the international level (9 months after publication of this report).

Standard «LEARNING RESOURCES AND STUDENT SUPPORT»

1) Consider a possibility to allocate a special room for psychological consultations of students, where a separate specialist, not related to the teaching staff, will receive students (9 months after publication of this report)

2) Consider a possibility to equip a social work laboratory with a permanent thematic and technical equipment (9 months after publication of this report)

Standard «INFORMATION MANAGEMENT»

Conduct an unplanned extended anonymous survey of internal stakeholders regarding satisfaction with working conditions at the university. Based on the results of the survey analysis, develop a plan for corrective and preventive actions and begin their implementation with the publication of information on the work done for interested parties (survey before the start of

2023-2024 academic year, corrective/preventive actions 9 months after publication of this report).

Standard «ON-GOING MONITORING AND PERIODIC REVIEW OF PROGRAMS»

1) Make sure students have a clear information about what happens with their feedback (6 months after publication of this report).

2) Make sure the teaching staff have sufficient chance to respond to the students' feedback (6 months after publication of this report).

3) Make sure monitoring and evaluation also considers learning environment (6 months after publication of this report).

4) Make sure revised program modifications are published (6 months after publication of this report).

Standard «CYCLICAL EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE»

Make sure the program will be continuously evaluated in accordance with the international standards (continuously).

The External Expert Panel made the following conclusions on the criteria of IAAR Standards: 20% of strong criteria, 80% of satisfactory criteria, no criteria requiring improvement, no unsatisfactory criteria.

Taking into account the results of the external assessment, IAAR Accreditation Council decided that educational programme **050807 Social Work of Azerbaijan University** meets the necessary requirements for obtaining international accreditation **for 5 (five) years**.

In case of disagreement with the decision of the Accreditation Council, the educational organisation has the right to appeal to the IAAR Appeals and Complaints Commission.

The Review Report of the External Expert Panel, which reflects overall experts' assessment of the educational programme for compliance with IAAR standards is attached to the letter.

Please accept our congratulations to the Azerbaijan University with the positive international accreditation outcome and we look forward to fruitful future cooperation!

Annexes:

- Accreditation Certificate – 1 sheet

- Review Report on Educational Programme 050807 Social Work – 58 sheets

**Yours sincerely,
General Director**



Dr. Alina Zhumagulova