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# THE ROLE OF THE APPLICATION OF MODERN MILITARY TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN ACHIEVING AZERBAIJAN'S MILITARY SUCCESS

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## ABSTRACT

The article examines the role of the use of modern technologies in achieving the military successes of Azerbaijan. It explores the role of recent technological development in various spheres of society, especially achievements in the field of communications and information technology, the launch of three telecommunication satellites of Azerbaijan into orbit, production of products meeting high standards at enterprises of the Ministry of Defense Industry, increasing the role of local production in providing our Army with weapons, as well as the role of modern technologies in achieving Azerbaijan's victory in the Patriotic War. The article uses such methods of studying socio-economic processes as specific-historical, comparative analysis, scientific generalization.

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## Introduction.

If we analyze the work done in the army building in the last few years, we will see that the past years have been fruitful, full of achievements and a period of great success in the army building process. Emphasizing that the construction of the army is the most important and priority issue for us, the President, the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev, under the direct leadership and instructions of the President, the comprehensive reforms have been able to cover all directions in the Armed Forces. As a result of this, our army managed to rise to the level of the armies of the leading countries and proved that it deserves to stand in the same line with the powerful armies. Thanks to the successful steps taken by the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, the economic empowerment of Azerbaijan led to a rapid increase in our military budget. It is also a matter of pride that the trend of growth in this direction is continuous in our country. In the last few years, the most modern, accurate, large-area destruction-capable weapons and combat equipment have been adopted for the armament of our army. This process continues to be implemented in stages and in a planned manner. The reforms carried out in the Azerbaijan Army and the decisions made to increase its combat capability are correct, important and successful. The completion of the Battle of Tovuz and the Patriotic War with our historical Victory is the most complete visual proof and clear example. Today, the power of the modernized Azerbaijani Army is recognized at the international level. Our Armed Forces are now among the 50 strongest armies of 195 countries in the world. In modern times, the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan have become the most powerful army in the region. It is no coincidence that in the report prepared by the prestigious "Global Fire Power" center based on 55 indicators, the Azerbaijani Army ranks first in the South Caucasus and among the top fifty armies in the world [6].

The process of building an army in Azerbaijan entered a completely new stage during the reign of President Ilham Aliyev. Thanks to the attention and care of the President, Supreme Commander-in-

Chief Ilham Aliyev, who successfully continued and developed the national leader's army-building policy, increasing the professionalism of the military, raising the fighting spirit and morale-psychological training of the personnel, supplying our Armed Forces with the most modern weapons and equipment was always kept in the foreground. The Ministry of Defense Industry, which was established in 2005 at the initiative of the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev in order to maintain the combat readiness of our Armed Forces at a high level, is actively continuing work in the direction of providing the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan with modern weapons and military equipment that meet high technological qualities.

Among the new industrial enterprises in Azerbaijan, the start of operations of factories producing defense industry products of strategic importance is a great achievement of our republic on the path of complex development. Quite important works have been done in the field of modernization of our Armed Forces, bringing the material and technical base to the level of the most modern standards. By acquiring new technical capabilities, our army has also mastered modern war and battle tactics that have been tested in the world [1].

As a result, Azerbaijan has the status of the country with the strongest army in the South Caucasus. The fact that the strongest army in the South Caucasus belongs to Azerbaijan is recognized both by the countries of the region and the world. Our Republic is considered as an exemplary state in terms of high moral and psychological training, fighting spirit, discipline, and material and technical support of the Armed Forces. After liberating our occupied territories in a short period of time, the power of our army is already being openly recognized even in the aggressor Armenia. At the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers dedicated to the results of the socio-economic development of 2010 and the tasks ahead in 2011, President Ilham Aliyev said: "When we conduct negotiations, at the same time, we pay great attention to the building of the army, we strengthen our army. We have been able to achieve great success in this field. The enemy knows this and is afraid. Their hysterical and nervous approvals and fear-filled speeches in recent months are a clear proof of this. They also know very well that the Azerbaijani army can deliver a crushing blow to the enemy at any moment. as a result of the strike, the situation not only in Nagorno-Karabakh, but also in Armenia may develop in a different direction" [1].

Even in 2010, the production volume of defense products increased more than 115 times compared to 2006. Compared to 2009, in 2011, the volume of defense products produced at defense industry enterprises increased 4 times, and the number of varieties reached 370. At present, more than 40 enterprises under the Ministry of Defense Industry produce about 1,200 types of various weapons, ammunition and military products. Long-range mortars, sniper rifles, hand grenades, various types of anti-tank mines, optical sights, aviation training bombs, camouflage nets, various ammunition and a number of other products are among the products that have been mastered. Joint production of "Matador" and "Marauder" type armored personnel carriers, development of modern "Zafar", "Zafar-K" and "Inam" type pistols according to NATO standards, and adaptation of various types of armored combat vehicles of former USSR production currently used in the Armed Forces to modern requirements appropriate improvement works are also successfully carried out.

Another noteworthy aspect is that the real production capacity of Azerbaijan's military industrial complex is capable of supplying our Armed Forces with weapons, ammunition, military equipment and other means, as well as exporting products to foreign markets. It is also nice to note that there is great interest in military products produced in Azerbaijan in foreign markets. This is confirmed by the exhibitions that have been held so far and where the defense products produced by our country are displayed. The reason for the great interest in the military products produced by Azerbaijan on the international scale is that they are of high quality and meet modern requirements. It is a matter of pride that many countries, besides showing interest in the products produced by defense industry enterprises in our country, are trying to establish cooperation with Azerbaijan in this field or to further deepen the existing cooperation. The achievements in the field of defense industry, created in a short time to increase the military potential of the republic, were achieved thanks to the special attention of the President of the country, the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Mr. Ilham Aliyev. Participating in the opening of new production areas, President Ilham Aliyev expressed his views on the defense industry and highly appreciated the work done [1].

Recently, three more enterprises have joined the ranks of active defense industry enterprises. These are the new "AZAD Systems Co." of the Ministry of Defense Industry "Sharq" Production Union. enterprise, after the reconstruction, the Baku Device Manufacturing Plant of the "Jihaz" Production

Union and the "Industrial Device" Science and Production Center were put into use. President Ilham Aliyev participated in the opening of all three enterprises. At those facilities, modern remotely controlled unmanned aerial vehicles, mine-resistant "Matador" and "Marauder" type armored vehicles, spare parts of seismic-principle mine detonators and close-range combat vehicles to name a few, and other military and civilian products are produced. Works on the improvement of the T-72 tank, ZTR and BRDM type armored vehicles are being carried out. The launch of new enterprises will have a positive effect on the further strengthening of the defense capabilities of our country and the increase in the production of the defense industry. The President of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ilham Aliyev, visited Sochi with the good news created by the commissioning of these enterprises, which serve to strengthen the military defense potential of our country. The leadership of Armenia could not hide its concern about the strengthening of Azerbaijan's military power and defense industry, and expressed its excitement. This is probably why the Armenians consider the opening of new military facilities a few days before the Sochi meeting as a message to them.

The brave Azerbaijani Army proved its strength once again in April 2016. The successful counter-offensive operations of the Azerbaijani army, which lasted from April 2 to 5, gave our country great advantages from a military-strategic point of view. First of all, Azerbaijan won a very important psychological victory. The Azerbaijani Army liberated the heights of great strategic importance in the northern and southern parts of Karabakh. In doing so, Azerbaijan demonstrated its ability, potential, and fighting determination to liberate its lands. The Azerbaijani Army inflicted a heavy defeat on the enemy with a successful counter-offensive operation and liberated more than 2000 hectares of the occupied territories of Fuzuli, Jabrayil and Tartar regions. Also, thousands of hectares of territory came under the full control of the Azerbaijani Army. As a result, the international echoes of the 4-day battles were immediately heard and the entire world was once again reminded of Armenia's occupation of Azerbaijani lands. As a continuation of this, in May 2018, more than 11,000 hectares of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, including Gannut village of Sharur district, were liberated from the enemy, favorable heights along the state border were captured, and the Yerevan-Gorus-Lachin road came under the control of the Azerbaijan Army.

Today, the numerous international cooperation established by Azerbaijan on the military level gives Azerbaijan great advantages and enables the import or joint production of numerous modern weapons and military equipment. One of the countries with which Azerbaijan closely cooperates in this regard is Pakistan. Pakistan is one of the first countries to recognize the independence of Azerbaijan. At the same time, due to the Karabakh conflict, Pakistan, which does not accept Armenia as a state and does not recognize it to this day, does not establish contact or cooperate with it in any field. Pakistan always defends the position of Azerbaijan in all international events and condemns the occupation policy of Armenia. For its part, Azerbaijan has always stood by Pakistan on the disputed Kashmir issue. Azerbaijan defended the positions of Pakistan in all prestigious international organizations and events. Today, cooperation between Azerbaijan and Pakistan is successfully developing in various fields, including the military field.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan plays an important role in the sphere of military cooperation of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Pakistan always supports our country in the international arena and openly declares that it is always with Azerbaijan. The "Bilateral Military Cooperation Plan" signed between the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan creates the effect of a military alliance between the two countries. Military cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan has been expanding since the strategic framework agreement was signed between the two countries in 2005. Pakistan cooperates extensively in training and strengthening the potential of Azerbaijan in the field of defense, fully supports the plans for the modernization of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan. Pakistan, which has a wide potential in the field of military production and military industry, states that it is always ready to cooperate with Azerbaijan in this field. At the same time, Pakistan offers Azerbaijan the most modern products of its military industrial complex [4].

In 2017, during the days when the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev participated in the 13th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization, in his meetings with the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President Mamnoon Hussain, specific projects in the field of defense and defense industry were discussed. An agreement was reached regarding Azerbaijan's import of the products of Pakistan's advanced military industrial complex.

President Ilham Aliyev said that the goal of Azerbaijan is to ensure the joint activity of the military industrial complex of the two states in order to implement joint projects with Pakistan. Real work is already being done in this direction. Successive visits at the highest level in a short time, and the recent visit of the President of Azerbaijan to Pakistan once again show that close alliance relations have been established between the two countries. Pakistan is considered the closest ally of Azerbaijan that has nuclear weapons. As a country with a developed defense industry, Pakistan is an important country for Azerbaijan. The expansion of military cooperation with Pakistan brings advantages to Azerbaijan.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan, along with Turkey, is one of the first countries to support Azerbaijan after the start of the Karabakh conflict. State and private organizations included in Pakistan's military industrial complex have the opportunity to supply the weapons, ammunition and technical means that Azerbaijan wants in a short time. This was also stated in the offer of support to Azerbaijan at the official level by Pakistan, which supports Azerbaijan on all platforms in 2020, when the situation on the front becomes tense: "We can supply Azerbaijan with any weapons, ammunition and equipment. This can be provided both from the production of enterprises and, in urgent cases, from the reserve of the army. Some Pakistani products are used in the Azerbaijani Army today. We are waiting for Baku to express its wishes. There is no foreign dependence on the products of Pakistan's military industry. This allows us to supply any weapons and equipment in a short time without being subject to any embargo."

The new technologies applied by Azerbaijan in the 44-day Patriotic War will be written as an example in world military history. It was with modern technologies and the bravery of soldiers that the lands occupied by Armenia for many years were liberated in a short time by conducting quick combat operations. However, with the end of the war, it can be said that the work in the military field was not completed. On January 26, 2021, President Ilham Aliyev, while receiving Rashad Nabiyeu as Minister of Transport, Communications and High Technologies in a video format, said that the application of new technologies will allow us to maintain our military power at a constant high level: "Today, Azerbaijan showed its superiority on the battlefield. The bravery and sacrifice of our heroic children, as well as technical equipment and, of course, the introduction of new technologies are one of the main factors of victory in the war. Technological provision, of course, created additional opportunities for us. However, I have said this many times, and I want to say it again that it was an Azerbaijani soldier and an Azerbaijani officer who liberated the lands. The one who brought the flag to the liberated lands and raised it high was a citizen of Azerbaijan."

President Ilham Aliyev emphasized that we should always aim ahead in the field of technological development and bring innovations in the military field to Azerbaijan: "Considering that we have very close friendly relations with the leading countries in this field and there are no restrictions on technological exports to Azerbaijan, we are always in this field we must take preventive steps. We should always build our policy in such a way that Azerbaijan's military potential and defense capabilities are always at a high level and no one ever tries to cause any provocation against us."

For a long time, the President of the country has been doing great things in strengthening and ensuring the security of Azerbaijan. During his speech, the head of state emphasized the application of new technologies in the military field. "We know that the 44-day Second Karabakh War was the beginning of a new stage in world military history. We are very happy and proud that it was the Azerbaijan Army that started a new stage in world military history. If the invention of cannon, helicopter, fighter planes and other weapons once played a fundamental role in world military history, today Azerbaijan has shown how important drones are. Even the generals of Great Britain, USA, India, China and Russia were forced to go through the war and tactics conducted by Azerbaijan in their military schools. If in the early 1990s, Armenia fought against Azerbaijan unarmed and unprepared and occupied our lands, our professional army liberated the occupied lands in just 44 days thanks to the bravery of its fighters and new military technologies."

The strengthening of the Azerbaijani Army did not end with the war: "Of course, the strengthening of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan will continue with the provision of new and modern military equipment. In this direction, Azerbaijan is pursuing a diversified policy. We know that a new agreement has already been signed with Pakistan. At the same time, we hope to further expand our relations with Israel and Turkey in this field." It should be noted that the "Agreement on strategic partnership and mutual assistance between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Turkey" signed on September 15, 2010 laid the foundation for a new stage in the development of Azerbaijan-Turkey military relations. With this agreement, the High Level Strategic Cooperation Council of

Azerbaijan and Turkey was established. According to Article 2 of the Treaty, if one of the parties is subjected to an armed attack or military aggression by a third state or a group of states, the parties shall use their military capabilities and powers to exercise the right of individual or collective self-defense recognized by Article 51 of the UN Charter. they will provide mutual assistance to each other in order to take all the necessary measures within the framework of their existing capabilities, including using them.

The historic visits of President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan to the city of Shusha on June 15, 2021 and the Shusha Declaration they signed here are of great importance from the point of view of further increasing the military power of Azerbaijan. The Shusha Declaration reveals the importance of Turkey's military participation to ensure the strategic balance of power and security in the South Caucasus. With the Shusha Declaration, raising the military relations between Azerbaijan and Turkey from cooperation to the level of alliance, determining the political and legal mechanisms for establishing alliance relations, holding joint meetings of the security councils of Azerbaijan and Turkey are the new priorities of military cooperation. The planning of the joint activities of the Armed Forces of the two countries, the mutual activity on the conduct of operations and the numerous joint exercises carried out are also important directions of unity and cooperation. The important relations in the field of defense industry are also one of the main directions of military cooperation between Azerbaijan and Turkey. Speaking of cooperation in the field of defense industry, the importance of "Bayraktar TB2" unmanned aerial vehicles produced by the Turkish military industry and "Harop" kamikaze drones produced by Israel in the victory of the Azerbaijani Army during the Second Karabakh War. special mention should be made. Application of methods of cooperation between Azerbaijan and Turkey in the field of defense industry, such as joint production, are prospective projects of military cooperation.

Military cooperation with Israel occupies an important place in Azerbaijan's international military strategy. Cooperation in the military field with this country has been developing dynamically in recent years. Azerbaijan buys modern drones, radars, missile systems and coastal defense equipment from Israeli defense industry companies.

Currently, in order to have a stronger military potential, the Republic of Azerbaijan puts forward the development of military infrastructure in accordance with international standards as a necessary condition, and pays attention to bilateral, trilateral and multilateral military cooperation with the world's leading states and international military organizations.

There are issues facing the Azerbaijani Armed Forces after the Patriotic War: "Modern technologies should be specially mentioned here. We know very well that during the Patriotic War, the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan carried out a quick operation using modern combat tactics and managed to win. Of course, the Azerbaijani Army used unmanned aerial vehicles and gained an advantage thanks to these means. However, after that, it is necessary to analyze what steps the enemy side, that is, Armenia, will take to counter these opportunities of Azerbaijan. We must be clear, we think the war is over. But the war is never over for the army. If we approach the issue in this context, the main issue facing the Azerbaijan Army is to further improve the air defense system. In this field, there is a greater need to integrate new, modern technologies into our army. In particular, the realization of projects such as the purchase of anti-drone systems, as well as their production in Azerbaijan, is one of the most important points. Also, the introduction of new generation weapons, the purchase of new drones, and new aviation equipment will lead to Azerbaijan maintaining its superiority in the region. This advantage is one of the most important points in modern combat operations. In addition, attention should be paid to the further improvement of special purpose military units and their provision with modern weapons: "It must be said clearly that Azerbaijan will maintain its superiority in the South Caucasus for many years to come. I would even say it will be permanent. Azerbaijan's financial capabilities also create conditions for this. The victory of the Azerbaijani Army will speak for itself in this area of improvement. However, in the face of the Iranian and Russian factors, more work needs to be done to make the Azerbaijani Army more perfect, to form an army with high-level defense and counter-offensive capabilities. I would say that the place of experience in this direction is Israel and Turkey. The technical capabilities of the Israeli army and the fighting skills of the Turkish army can be an example for the Azerbaijani army. At the same time, Azerbaijan's own combat experience can further improve this example. With this, the Azerbaijani Army will maintain the image of a strong army in the region and its capabilities."

After the Patriotic War, important steps were taken in the direction of further strengthening of our Army, and new commando units were created. In the period after the second Karabakh war, important steps were taken to further strengthen the Azerbaijani Army, the supply of weapons and ammunition improved, and commando units were created. On December 24, 2021, President, Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Ilham Aliyev, speaking at the opening of the military unit in Hadrut settlement, spoke about the importance of the creation of the Commando Brigade, the new contracts signed after the war, and the importance of our Army. he talked about the purchase of the most modern weapons and equipment for the supply, and the increase in military expenses: "I want to say once again that the opening of a new military unit in Hadrut is a very significant event. Both because this region is of strategic importance, our strong armed alliance in Hadrut will protect our security, the security of our country, and on the other hand, because it is located in a place that belonged to the liberated former Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Province. At the same time, the greatest importance of this military part is that we did not stop the process of building the army after the war and did not reduce the expenses allocated to the army, on the contrary, we increased it. New contracts signed after the war are implemented. On the basis of new contracts, the most modern weapons and equipment are being brought to Azerbaijan for the supply of our Army. We never hid it and demonstrated it many times in military parades during the occupation. Both the purchase of military equipment and the increase in military expenses, at the same time, the increase in the salaries of the military personnel - all this is obvious - shows that even if the war is over, the process of building an army will not stop.

President Ilham Aliyev, in his address on the occasion of the Day of Solidarity of World Azerbaijanis and the New Year on January 1 of this year, touched upon the purchase of modern weapons and equipment and the creation of a new military unit, the Commando Forces, and said: "We will continue to increase our military power. In 2021, practical steps have been taken in this direction, new weapons and equipment have been purchased and will be purchased. At the same time, great importance is attached to the preparatory work of our military units. In the second Karabakh war, the whole world saw the military power of Azerbaijan, the special forces of the Ministry of Defense were already recognized by the whole world, their heroism, dedication, and professionalism became a legend. I must also inform you that this year a new military unit was created in Azerbaijan - the Commando Forces. These Commando Forces are ready to perform any military task, their number is constantly increasing and will increase. Thus, the creation of a new flexible, professional and highly capable armed association means that we should be ready to protect our lands and our borders at any moment. Some incidents that took place on the Armenia-Azerbaijani border in September 2021 and 2022 showed that Azerbaijan holds the upper hand."

In the past period, new contracts were signed, modern military equipment, weapons and ammunition are purchased and will be purchased for our army. On July 15, President Ilham Aliyev, in his speech at the meeting dedicated to the end of the six months of this year, touched on the increase in military spending and said that a part of our growing economic and financial capabilities was directed to these issues: "Additions were made to the budget, honesty was made, and military spending was significantly reduced there. was increased. Why? So, there is a reason for it. We determined our military expenses last year when this year's budget was approved, and we thought that it was enough. But then, look, due to the issues I mentioned and other issues, which I didn't mention here, we believe that it is necessary to increase the military expenses. This increase will be spent on the purchase of weapons with high technological capabilities. I also want to say this. Because we see that there is a need for newly signed contracts. Our military spending has increased this year during the modernization to purchase the most modern military equipment and weapons. We will increase as much as needed. Because we know what war is, what invasion is, and what danger is. We must be ready at any moment to ensure our rights in any way."

The Patriotic War is a demonstration of the people's trust and love for their army, the valor of the Azerbaijani military, and the honor and accuracy of all the combat tasks set before it. One of the main factors determining this Victory was the confidence of our people in the power of the Azerbaijani Army. At the same time, the whole world saw the strength, professionalism and ability of our army, which fought the war of the new century, to successfully realize its historical mission.

## CONCLUSION.

The Second Karabakh War greatly boosted Azerbaijan's military development. In terms of the military technological innovations used, the Patriotic War was very different from the wars that took place in different parts of the world. Azerbaijan benefited from the innovations in the military field of brother Turkey and successfully tested its recent achievements in the field of military production on a kind of military field. It is for this reason that the military potential of Azerbaijan is increasing today and has become the center of attention of leading military and political centers. The holding of the exhibition in Azerbaijan will show both the advantages of our country in this field and its positive impact on the cooperation of countries with developed military industry with Azerbaijan. This is also a message that Azerbaijan is always paying attention to strengthening its military sphere.

The President of the country, Mr. Ilham Aliyev, constantly emphasizes this reality based on the experience of developed countries, that the success of those countries is based on ideas, ideas, innovation, and scientific and technical progress. Azerbaijan also prioritizes modernization and improvement while carrying out reforms in various directions. Reforms determine the future sustainable development of our country. From this point of view, progress is impossible without reforms. It is possible to respond to the challenges of the era at a high level in the conditions of formation of personnel potential in accordance with economic progress, development and application of new technologies.

The independent state of Azerbaijan is developing rapidly and comprehensively and is already a member of the space club. "Azer-space-1" promotes development in economic, social, scientific, cultural, security and other fields by creating conditions for the development of the space industry, wide application of satellite technologies, meeting the demand for telecommunication, internet, television and radio broadcasting services in our country. In 2016, the "Azersky" observation satellite and in 2018, the "Azer-space-2" satellite were launched into orbit. Azerbaijan's success in the space industry, in turn, determines the development of the non-oil sector. Through the "Azersky" observation satellite, we can constantly monitor all the events that are happening not only in our country, but in any part of the world. "Azersky" satellite has a special role in strengthening the defense and military potential of Azerbaijan. Life has shown that launching satellites into orbit is an important event for our present and future. The use of satellites in both the war and post-war period brought great advantages to Azerbaijan. Of course, during the Patriotic War, it was our country's advantage to monitor the enemy's actions online and prevent their provocations. It is no coincidence that the operations conducted by Azerbaijan in the Second Karabakh War, which lasted for 44 days, were called the war of the XXI century by military experts around the world. Because it was an innovation in terms of technological development.

Azerbaijan has demonstrated great success in the field of application and development of new technologies both in the Patriotic War and in the fight against the corona virus infection that is sweeping the world. Strengthening the material and technical base of the Azerbaijan Army, supplying it with modern equipment is always a priority issue. The President of the country also explains this goal, that we should always aim ahead in the field of technological development and bring innovations in the military field to Azerbaijan. The fight against COVID-19 once again brought clarity to the available opportunities in the field of information technologies of our country. Since self-isolation is highlighted as an important factor in interstate relations, the President of the country Ilham Aliyev's meetings with the officials of one or another state or international organization during the pandemic, at the same time, at his initiative, the summit meetings of the Turkic Council, the Non-Aligned Movement, UN General Assembly. The special session of the Assembly was organized in video format. Of course, such important steps are impossible without modern technologies. Our success is the basis for this confidence that in the coming years, Azerbaijan will further strengthen its leadership position in the field of information and communication technologies.

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