

Ordukhan Gahramanzada



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LANGUAGES

Azerbaijani and Turkish (native), English (fluent), Russian (working)

Profile

Ordukhan Gahramanzada heads the International Initiatives Department of the Global Union for Intercultural Dialogue (GUIDE), the Secretariat of the Baku Process initiated by President Ilham Aliyev in 2008, and serves on the organising committee of the 7th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue (2026). He is also Head of Division at MEMİM, seconded to the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and serves as the Ministry's focal point and expert for the UNESCO 1970 Convention on illicit trafficking of cultural property and the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. In youth policy he has worked from student organisations to the state level: President of the "Erasmus Student Network-Azerbaijan" Public Union, Secretary-General of the Azerbaijan Student Youth Organizations' Union, the national umbrella of the student youth organisations of higher education institutions, Board member of the National Assembly of Youth Organizations, Chairperson of the Non-Aligned Movement Youth Organization, established during Azerbaijan's chairmanship of the Movement under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, and head of grant financing for youth organisations at the Youth Foundation. He served as Azerbaijan's official Youth Delegate to the 78th session of the UN General Assembly and spoke at the UN Human Rights Council, the OSCE Warsaw Human Dimension Conference, the Council of Europe's World Forum for Democracy and the Dushanbe Process.

Principal achievements

- Serves on the organising committee of the **7th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue** (Baku, 27–29 October 2026), held within the Baku Process initiated by President Ilham Aliyev in 2008.
- Serves as the **Ministry of Culture's coordinator** for the two **International Court of Justice** cases on the Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Azerbaijan v. Armenia and Armenia v. Azerbaijan).
- Serves as the focal point and expert of the Ministry of Culture for the **UNESCO 1970 Convention and the 1954 Hague Convention**.
- Served on the organising committees of **Turkic World Week** (2026), held in implementation of the Order of President Ilham Aliyev of 22 October 2025, and of the **OIC Culture Festival: Baku Creative Week** (2025).
- Chaired the **NAM Youth Network**, established during Azerbaijan's chairmanship of the Movement under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, and the NAM Youth Organization into which it was transformed in 2022 (2021–2024), and headed the organising committee of the first NAM Youth Summit in Baku and Shusha.
- Served as Azerbaijan's **official Youth Delegate** to the 78th session of the UN General Assembly.
- Has taken part in **23 international events and working visits in 14 foreign countries** since 2019, among them three visits to **UN Headquarters** in New York and events of **UNESCO** and the **Council of Europe**. Addressed the **UN Human Rights Council** and three plenary sessions of the **OSCE Warsaw Human Dimension Conference**, and was the **first youth speaker of the Dushanbe Process** at the UNOCT high-level conference.

Current positions

Head of the International Initiatives Department

01/2026 – present

Global Union for Intercultural Dialogue (GUIDE), Secretariat of the Baku Process initiated by President Ilham Aliyev in 2008

- Serves on the organising committee of the **7th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue**, held in Baku on 27–29 October 2026.
- Serves as lead coordinator of the first **Youth Forum** of the World Forum, held in Guba on 24–26 October 2026 with the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC).
- Coordinates the Youth Dialogue segment, one of the Forum’s main segments, to be held at the Heydar Aliyev Center on 28 October 2026.
- Responsible for relations with the Forum’s guests from more than 90 countries.
- Contributes to the preparation of the Forum’s substantive documents, including the draft Final Declaration.

Head of Division

10/2025 – present

MEMİM, seconded to the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan

- Contributes regularly to **Azerbaijan’s replies to UNESCO Secretariat questionnaires** on the implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention.
- Worked on the **Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry and ICCROM** (10/2025 – 08/2026), reconciling the Azerbaijani and English texts and preparing the documents for its **clearance with the relevant state bodies**.
- Contributed to the preparation of the methodological framework of the **SECURE Concept**, a culture-centred framework drawn from the reconstruction of Garabagh and Eastern Zangazur, presented by the Ministry at the 13th session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13, Baku, 2026).
- Serves on the **working group on the optimisation of the Ministry of Culture system**.

Previous experience

Head of the Department for Work with Youth Organisations

01/2025 – 10/2025

Youth Foundation of the Republic of Azerbaijan

- Organised support for more than **100 youth organisations** through structural grants, periodic grant competitions and non-competitive grant financing, and took an active part in updating the regulatory and legal framework for grant financing.
- Oversaw national and international partnerships with youth organisations.
- Coordinated, on behalf of the Youth Foundation, the **“Young Beekeeper”** project in Khizi district (2025), initiated by Leyla Aliyeva, Vice-President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation.
- Actively contributed to establishing the **Global South NGO Platform**, a COP29 initiative, and to drafting its legal framework.

Acting Head of the Department for Work with Youth Organisations

04/2024 – 01/2025

Youth Foundation of the Republic of Azerbaijan

- Developed and implemented strategic plans to strengthen youth engagement, volunteering and the structural development of youth organisations.
- Monitored and evaluated youth programmes and coordinated joint events with international bodies.

Previous experience *(continued)*

Teaching Assistant

2024–2026

Baku State University, Faculty of Law

- Assisted in teaching courses on transnational criminal law (2024–2025), legal foundations of international cooperation in the cultural sphere (2025–2026) and the cultural legislation of foreign states (2025–2026).

Chairperson

10/2021 – 03/2024

Non-Aligned Movement Youth Organization (NAMYO), the NAM Youth Network until 2022

- Led, from its establishment during Azerbaijan's chairmanship of the Movement under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, the NAM Youth Network uniting young people of the 120 Member States of the Movement, and the NAM Youth Organization established on its basis.
- In June 2022, at ADA University, spoke on the founding and international work of the Network at the meeting of **Abdulla Shahid, President of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly**, with representatives of the NAM Youth Network, and took part in the meeting of **Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations**, with representatives of the Network.
- At a meeting at ADA University with **Miroslav Jenča, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas** (2022), presented an overview of the Organization's activities and moderated the questions and answers, and at a meeting with **Vladanka Andreeva, UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan** (2023) briefed her on the Organization's work and its cooperation with the UN.
- Met the **Minister of Youth of the State of Libya** (2023) and moderated an event on the role of youth in combating climate change with Sadiq Gurbanov, Chair of the Milli Majlis Committee for Natural Resources, Energy and Ecology.
- Headed the organising committee of the first **NAM Youth Summit**, held in Baku and in Shusha, the cultural capital of Azerbaijan, on 25–29 July 2022 with youth from 61 member states, and spoke at its opening ceremony on the work and plans of the Network. The **"Shusha Accord"**, adopted at the Shusha segment of the Summit, transformed the NAM Youth Network into the NAM Youth Organization.
- Delivered statements at the Baku Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement Parliamentary Network (2022), the Summit-level Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement Contact Group in response to COVID-19 in Baku (2023) and the meetings of NAM Ministers of Education and of ICT.
- Under his leadership, an **International Charity Fair** was held in Baku for the first time at the Heydar Aliyev Sports and Concert Complex with the participation of the diplomatic missions of more than 40 countries.
- Held the Organization's first briefing at **UN Headquarters** in New York (November 2022), informing NAM Member States of its work and plans.
- Under his chairmanship, 19 young delegates from 18 member countries observed the extraordinary presidential election of 7 February 2024 as international observers at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Organization's **first international observation mission**.
- By the end of his tenure, the Organization had grown into an international youth platform uniting young people from **more than 50 member countries**, with its headquarters in Baku.

Secretary-General

11/2021 – 05/2023

Azerbaijan Student Youth Organizations' Union (ASYOU)

- Managed the Secretariat of the national umbrella of the student youth organisations of higher education institutions, exercised the Union's full executive functions and oversaw its relations with national and international partners.

Previous experience *(continued)*

- Coordinated work across **all regions of the country** to strengthen the role of **student youth organisations** of higher and secondary vocational education institutions in implementing state youth policy.
- As Secretary-General of the Union, delivered three plenary addresses at the **OSCE Warsaw Human Dimension Conference** (2022) and a video address to the China–SCO–Eurasia Youth Leaders Dialogue (2022), and represented the Union at a number of other reputable international platforms.

Head of the Department for Member Organisations and Student Clubs

11/2020 – 11/2021

Azerbaijan Student Youth Organizations' Union (ASYOU)

- Coordinated student clubs and organisations in about 100 educational institutions and drafted the **regulations** governing the member student organisations and ensured their application.

National Program Director

01/2021 – 05/2023

Enactus Azerbaijan

- Led the national chapter of the global social entrepreneurship platform operating in 34 countries.
- Headed the national delegation, made up of the Enactus team of the Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), at the **Enactus World Cup 2022** in San Juan, Puerto Rico (USA), where the Azerbaijani team reached the world's Top 16 for the second time in its history.

President

07/2020 – 10/2021

"Erasmus Student Network-Azerbaijan" Public Union

- Led the national chapter of Europe's largest student volunteer association, which unites more than 1,000 higher education institutions in 42 countries.

National Representative and Co-founder

07/2019 – 07/2020

"Erasmus Student Network-Azerbaijan" Public Union

- Represented Azerbaijan at international ESN meetings and training events in Budapest (2019), Lisbon (2019) and Istanbul (2020).

Teaching Assistant, Information and Computational Skills

09/2020 – 01/2021

ADA University, School of Public and International Affairs

Education

2024–present	PhD in Political Science (full-time), Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Research topic: "Azerbaijan's Geopolitics in the Context of the Transformation of the Caspian and Black Sea Region"
2022–2024	Master of Public Administration , ADA University (GPA 3.50/4.00, Dean's List). Capstone project: strategies for integrating people with disabilities into the labour market in Azerbaijan.
2018–2022	BA in International Studies , ADA University. Admitted with 651 points in the State University Entrance Examination, graduated with a diploma with distinction (CGPA 3.87/4.00) and was on the Dean's List. Received the Haji Zeynalabdin Tagiyev Social Award during his studies.
2019	Erasmus+ exchange semester in Political Science and Diplomacy, University of Tartu, Estonia
2011–2018	Graduated from the "Young Talents" Lyceum under Baku State University with a Gold Medal .

Research

- Submitted manuscripts in 2026 to the Journal of Eurasian Studies (SAGE) and the Khazar Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences.

International and national engagements

07/2026	Ardabil Week , Ardabil, Islamic Republic of Iran. Took part in the delegation of Azerbaijan led by Isa Habibbayli, President of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, with Deputy Minister of Culture Farid Jafarov and Member of the Milli Majlis Jeyhun Mammadov, in the Sheikh Safi al-Din Ardabili Day events and in the meetings with Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyed Abbas Salehi and the Governor of Ardabil Province, and prepared the report on the visit.
06–07/2026	Turkic World Week , Baku and Garabagh. Served on the organising committee of the Week, held by the Ministry of Culture on 29 June – 3 July 2026 in implementation of the Order of President Ilham Aliyev of 22 October 2025 on the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the First Turkological Congress, wrote the opening ceremony script and developed the digital platform for managing participants and the programme.
05/2026	UNESCO Headquarters , Paris. Represented the Ministry of Culture in the delegation of Azerbaijan at the 14th session of the Subsidiary Committee of the 1970 Convention (Azerbaijan is an elected member for 2023–2027) and at the 25th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in case of Illicit Appropriation (ICPRCP, of which Azerbaijan is a member for 2025–2029).
04/2026	Strategic Cooperation Conference and Technical Workshop on Turkic Cultural Heritage: Combatting Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property , Gaziantep, Türkiye. Represented the Ministry of Culture and, jointly with representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the State Customs Committee, presented Azerbaijan's legal framework and institutional approach, the work on documenting and internationally tracing the cultural heritage of liberated Garabagh and Eastern Zangazur, and the legal position on cultural property removed under occupation in the context of Article 11 of the UNESCO 1970 Convention.
12/2025	OIC Culture Festival: Baku Creative Week 2025 , Baku. Served as a member of the organising committee of the Festival, held in partnership with the OIC and the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, and worked on the drafting of the Baku Communiqué on Creative Industries and the script of the opening ceremony.
12/2025	UNESCO Headquarters , Paris. Represented the Ministry of Culture in the delegation of Azerbaijan at the meetings under the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its 1999 Second Protocol, including the 20th meeting of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.
08/2025	Closing ceremony of the CIS Countries' Youth Camp , Lachin. Spoke on behalf of the Youth Foundation.
06/2025	Youth Artificial Intelligence Forum , Baku. Spoke on a panel as Head of Department of the Youth Foundation.
04/2025	Conference on strengthening Global South NGOs for a new and just world , Baku. Moderated the side event “Bridging Borders: D-8 Collaboration for a Prosperous Future” at the first meeting of NGOs of the D-8 countries.
12/2024	European Alumni Forum “Inspire. Impact. Change.” , Rome. Attended as Acting Head of Department of the Youth Foundation, a partner of the Forum organised by ADA University and ASAP.
11/2024	29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP29) , hosted by Azerbaijan in Baku. Took part in the Blue and Green Zones.
10/2024	Enactus World Cup 2024 , Astana, Kazakhstan. Served as a judge.
10/2024	Hackathon “Artificial Intelligence in the Green Economy” , Baku. Took part as Head of Department of the Youth Foundation.

International and national engagements *(continued)*

09/2024	International Youth Forum on Supporting Environmental Policy through Young Leaders , Baku. Delivered the opening speech as Acting Head of Department of the Youth Foundation at the Forum, which brought together young people from 18 countries in the Year of Solidarity for a Green World declared by President Ilham Aliyev.
07/2024	“A+” graduates’ celebration organised by ASYOU with thousands of young people , Baku. Took part on behalf of the Youth Foundation.
06/2024	International Leadership and Diplomacy Conference , Shusha. Moderated the session “Role of Youth in Advancing Climate Dialogues” at the Conference, held within the opening events of Shusha as the 10th OIC Youth Capital.
11/2023	11th World Forum for Democracy , Council of Europe, Strasbourg. Speaking at the Forum talk “International Community and Democratic Insecurity”, raised the problem of landmines in the liberated territories and drew attention to Armenia’s refusal to provide minefield maps as a serious obstacle to the safe return of internally displaced persons.
09/2023	High-Level Week of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly and the SDG Summit , New York. Took part as Azerbaijan’s official Youth Delegate and held a number of meetings.
08/2023	First Regional Forum of NAM Youth for Latin America and the Caribbean , Caracas, Venezuela. Travelled as Chairperson of the NAM Youth Organization to organise the Forum.
07/2023	Non-Aligned Movement Youth Shusha Week , Shusha, the cultural capital of Azerbaijan. Delivered the opening address as NAMYO Chairperson at the Week, held with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Youth and Sports to mark the first anniversary of the Shusha Accord, and moderated its interactive session and closing ceremony.
05–06/2023	Nasser Fellowship for International Leadership , Cairo, Egypt. Spoke at the Fellowship programme and held a number of meetings.
04/2023	UN ECOSOC Youth Forum , New York. Took part in the NAM Youth Organization delegation, spoke at the side event “Recovery from COVID-19: Perspectives of NAM Youth”, co-organised by the Organization and NAYORA, and held a number of meetings.
03/2023	Summit-level Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement Contact Group in response to COVID-19 , Baku. Delivered a statement as Chairperson of the NAM Youth Organization.
03/2023	Public discussion “The Corsica issue and violations of fundamental human rights” , Baku. Spoke as Chairperson of the NAM Youth Organization.
11/2022	Briefing on the activities of NAMYO , UN Headquarters, New York. Briefed the delegations of NAM Member States as Chairperson and answered their questions.
10–11/2022	Enactus World Cup 2022 , San Juan, Puerto Rico (USA). Led the national delegation, whose team advanced to the semi-final stage among the world’s Top 16.
10/2022	High-level conference on international and regional border security and the prevention of terrorism , held with the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Was the first youth speaker in the Dushanbe Process and delivered a statement on whole-of-society terrorism prevention and the role of youth in combating radicalisation.
09/2022	OSCE Warsaw Human Dimension Conference , Warsaw. Delivered, as a youth civil society representative, three plenary addresses on fundamental rights and freedoms, racism, xenophobia, discrimination and freedom of expression.
09/2022	51st session of the UN Human Rights Council , Geneva. Spoke as a panellist at the biennial panel on the right to development, moderated by Council President Federico Villegas.
07/2022	Baku Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement Parliamentary Network , Baku. Spoke on behalf of the NAM Youth Network.
05/2022	“50-50” training on young people’s access to rights , European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg.
02–03/2022	Enactus Network Leadership Summit 2022 , Baku. Served on the organising committee.

International and national engagements *(continued)*

02/2022	Youth Forum on the 25th anniversary of Azerbaijan Youth Day , attended by President Ilham Aliyev. Addressed a question on the volunteer movement to the President.
01/2022	China-SCO-Eurasia Youth Leaders Dialogue , Beijing. Delivered a video address as Secretary-General of the Azerbaijan Student Youth Organizations' Union.
10/2021	Turkic Council Media Forum , Istanbul, Türkiye.
08/2021	Young Leaders Forum of the Turkic Council (now the Organization of Turkic States) , Osh, Kyrgyzstan.
09–10/2019	ESNgender Check-up study session , European Youth Centre, Budapest. Took part in the session, organised by the Council of Europe with the Erasmus Student Network.
07/2019	Diplomacy Week on the 100th anniversary of Azerbaijan's diplomatic service , held by ADA University and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Baku. Completed the programme.

Civic engagement and additional activities

Organising Committee Member	2021–2025
YayFest, the region's largest youth festival, held every summer over eight weeks with about 2,000 young people, with the support of the Youth Foundation of the Republic of Azerbaijan and in partnership with leading youth organisations	
Board Member	11/2020 – 11/2024
National Assembly of Youth Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan (NAYORA)	
Humanitarian mission to the earthquake zone	02/2023
Kahramanmaraş, Türkiye	
Travelled with the delegation of the Agency for State Support to Non-Governmental Organizations to Türkiye to deliver humanitarian aid to families who had lost their homes in the earthquake and were living in tent camps.	
Eco-action on the Lachin–Khankendi road	12/2022
One of the first participants in the eco-action that began on 12 December 2022	
Organising Committee Member, Khudafarin Media Centre	10/2020
Joint project of the Youth Foundation and ASYOU	
In October 2020, during the Patriotic War, was responsible for preparing the training materials on communicating the historical and legal aspects of the Garabagh conflict on social media, and took part in delivering the training sessions to hundreds of students.	
Member of the management group, “Digiuth” online teaching portal	10/2020
“Erasmus Student Network-Azerbaijan” Public Union, project “Digital Transformation in the Youth Sector of Azerbaijan: Experience of Visegrad Countries”	
Took part in building a free training portal for youth workers in Azerbaijani and English.	
Elected Consul for General Education, Student Government	2019–2021
ADA University	
Debate, Model UN and student simulations	2017–2021
Board member of ADAMUN (2018–2021) and the ADA Debate Society (2019–2020)	
- Competed and coached in internationally recognised British Parliamentary and Lincoln-Douglas debating competitions (2017–2019) and took part in Model UN and European Youth Parliament simulations (2018–2019). - Organised “Youth Debate 2019”, held to mark the 20th anniversary of the partnership between the Asian Development Bank and Azerbaijan.	

Honours and awards

- **Second place** in the Chemistry category of the 6th national contest “Scientists of Tomorrow” (2017).
- **Certificate of Honour** from the Chair of the Youth and Sports Committee of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
- **Best Delegate Award** at the UN Security Council simulation of YouthMUN 2019 in Baku and **Best Position Paper Award** at the UN Security Council simulation of UNEC MUN IV (2019).

Skills

- **Strategy and leadership:** management, international negotiation and representation, public speaking, policy coordination, youth development, multilateral cultural affairs.
- **Digital and analytical:** advanced Excel (pivot tables, XLOOKUP, dashboards), Google Sheets automation, data analysis and reporting, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, digital registry structuring, basic Python and Stata, fluent use of AI tools.