

Dear Congress participants!

Ladies and Gentleman!

Dear friends and colleagues!

I cordially welcome all the participants and guests of the 82nd FIG Congress we are hosting in the capital city of Azerbaijan on December 2 & 3, 2018.

It is a great honor and responsibility for us to hold such a prestigious sports forum in our country.

Since the first years after the restoration of its independence, Azerbaijan has been actively participating in the international sports and Olympic movement. The development of high performance sports and mass sports involvement is an important priority of independent Azerbaijan's state policy. The sports infrastructure is being improved and various sports disciplines are being developed. This concerns gymnastics to the full extent.

History of Azerbaijani gymnastics is perhaps not so long but it has many bright pages and great achievements. Over these years, gymnastics has really become favorite sports discipline, and the Azerbaijani gymnastics school won a recognition of the international sports community. Our athletes successfully perform at the most prestigious competitions, including the Olympic Games, World and European Championships.

Azerbaijan has repeatedly hosted major international events in gymnastics. It is a pleasant fact that the activity of Azerbaijan Gymnastics Federation (AGF) was highly valued by the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) for the last 4 years in a row. I express my sincere gratitude to the FIG Authority for such a high appreciation of the work we carry out.

Our country has already organized meetings of the FIG governing bodies. There was held the FIG Council Meeting in Baku in May of 2017. Now, the FIG Congress commences its work in the capital of Azerbaijan. The members of the big and friendly world gymnastics family will discuss a number of important issues that the international sports movement faces today. I am confident that such open and fruitful discussions will facilitate to further development of gymnastics and the growth of its popularity.

I wish you all successes, good luck, peace and well-being!

Mehriban Aliyeva
President of Azerbaijan Gymnastics Federation