**BP response**

*Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited BP to respond to the following item:*

*- «**Submission to the UPR Review of Azerbaijan (3rd cycle) concerning the rights of communities affected by hydrocarbon development in Azerbaijan», Crude Accountability, 5 October 2017*

*In response, BP sent the following statement:*

BP has been involved in Azerbaijan for more than 25 years with a strong commitment to conducting a safe, reliable, environmentally and socially responsible business that benefits all our stakeholders, most importantly the communities living in our neighbourhood.

Social responsibility is a core part of everything BP does in Azerbaijan and elsewhere in the world.  Therefore, before we start any major project we conduct detailed environmental and social impact assessments in affected areas and communities in order to be able to take all necessary action to avoid, eliminate where possible or minimize the impacts from our business. These assessments are conducted and developed in consultation with the government and public through open disclosure discussions and public meetings where views, concerns and feedback from the public are heard and considered.  In doing so, we ensure that we act and operate in compliance with relevant international standards, local legislation and applicable regulatory requirements.

For instance, our environmental management system has been certified against ISO 14001 Environmental Management System standard since 2000.  Maintaining the certificate requires regular surveillance audits carried out by an external auditor. Applicable regulatory compliance requirements and standards are managed and tracked within a dedicated Compliance Management System established and maintained in line with BP’s Operating Management System.  Also, for many years, we have been running an Environmental Monitoring Programme around our onshore and offshore facilities to identify, understand address the potential impacts of our activities on local environments.

We have an established grievance resolution mechanism for communities living in our neighbourhood. Our policy is to register and acknowledge community grievances within seven days, and address them within 30 days. The registration and response to community grievances and requests are managed by our community liaison officers whose job is to engage with the communities on a day-to-day basis.  This has enabled both parties to constructively address concerns and resolve disagreements helping maintain open dialogues and build strong, mutually beneficial working relationships.

In addition, we implement major social investment programmes and projects aimed to create sustainable benefits for people and new opportunities for social development. For this, we listen to the communities to find out their needs and support them where we can with starting up new businesses, expanding and developing their enterprises and building up their capacities to increase income generation opportunities for them.  Our social investment projects in Azerbaijan have to date delivered a positive and enduring impact on the communities improving their livelihoods and helping them build their future. We will continue our social investment activity through educational programmes, building skills and capabilities in local communities, improving access to social infrastructure in communities, supporting local enterprises, providing access to quality training and overall capacity-building.

Further information on our environmental and social performance in Azerbaijan can be found in our annual sustainability reports at [www.bp.com/caspian/report](http://www.bp.com/caspian/report).