The first regional conference on “Green Education”, jointly organized by the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), has officially commenced today in Baku.

Representatives from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan are participating in the seminar.

The main objectives of the two-day seminar are to promote the transformation of education systems to ensure a climate-resilient future, systematically expand the coverage of climate and sustainable development issues in national curricula, and conduct a policy dialogue on the implementation of the ‘green school’ model.

The opening ceremony of the seminar, which took place at the STEAM Innovation Centre, featured speeches by Deputy Minister of Science and Education Hasan Hasanli, Deputy Director of the ISESCO Baku Regional Office Maryam Gafarzade, and Head of the ISESCO Education Sector Haddy Jatou Sey.

Deputy Minister of Science and Education Hasan Hasanli noted in his speech that “green” and sustainable development has been identified as one of the main goals of Azerbaijan's development strategy until 2030. The strategy covers a number of areas, from energy transition to the use of alternative energy sources and corresponding changes in educational programs.

The Deputy Minister noted that the expansion of STEAM education was made possible by the implementation of these strategic documents. Hasan Hasanli emphasised the importance of regional cooperation in overcoming global challenges in the field of climate change and education, and noted that the effective use of water resources and awareness-raising projects in this area play an important role in combating climate change.

In her speech, Maryam Gafarzade, Deputy Director of the ISESCO Regional Office in Baku, stated that education is the most powerful and sustainable force for change. She noted that the climate crisis threatens the future of the world, nature and society. Therefore, we must go beyond traditional approaches to education and incorporate the principles of sustainable development, environmental responsibility and climate change resilience into the core of education systems. ‘Green education’ is not just a concept, it is a necessity.

Maryam Gafarzadeh emphasized that the ISESCO Regional Office in Baku, which covers the South Caucasus, Central Asia and neighboring regions, is an important

platform for education to play a leading role in combating climate change.

Haddy Jatou Sey, Head of the Education Sector at ISESCO, stated in her speech that in the current era, education should not be merely a means of learning, but a key force for transforming societies and systems. Haddy Jatu Say noted that ISESCO, in collaboration with the University of Cambridge, has prepared a document entitled 'Green Education Policy' aimed at supporting member states in the fight against climate change. She also noted that ISESCO's educational departments are making every effort to ensure that member states include measures to combat climate change in their educational programs.

The opening ceremony also featured a presentation on 'The Framework of Green Education and Its Regional Significance' by representatives of ISESCO and the University of Cambridge.

Following the presentations, the seminar continued with interactive sessions. Representatives from participating countries shared their national experiences and achievements in the field of green education. During the sessions, the importance of regional cooperation in aligning curricula, teacher training and school infrastructure with the principles of "green education" was emphasized.

It should be noted that on the second day of the seminar, an interactive panel discussion on the topic of 'Shaping Educational Policy' will be organized with the participation of international experts. During the panel discussion, participants will exchange views on the main stages of global education policy formation, the creation of a sustainable education system that is appropriate to national conditions, as well as current issues related to climate change and "green education".

It is expected that, following the seminar, ISESCO and the Ministry of Science and Education will prepare general recommendations at the regional level and determine future areas of cooperation.