

Ms. President,

Allow me to thank you as well for your capable management of this session. We also would like to express our appreciation to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Her Excellency Madam Navanethem Pillay for her tireless efforts in promotion and protection of the human rights in different parts of the world.

The Government and people of Azerbaijan are deeply concerned about the unfolding humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa and in particular, Somalia occasioned by the severe drought situation. It is horrible to see that with famine and more than 10 million people in desperate need of assistance in the region, countless lives hang in the balance. Taking into account the urgency of the crisis and heeding to the call of the international community at large, the Republic of Azerbaijan has already financially contributed to the food crisis in the region and will continue to do so in the future.

Faced with the horrifying terrorist attacks on its territory long before the world witnessed the tragic events of September 11, 2001, the Republic of Azerbaijan is continuing to stick to the policy of high level of tolerance towards various groups and religions and is the bulk of intercultural and interreligious harmony in the South Caucasus. The Government of Azerbaijan is committed to carefully take note of the views of the High Commissioner with a view of further developing of its policies in that regard.

We believe that rights of vulnerable groups such as women, children, refugees, IDPs and etc. should be always on the radar of international community, including the OHCHR to fulfil noble goal of ensuring of all human rights for all.

Madame High Commissioner,

The Republic of Azerbaijan has always displayed its consistent policy of full cooperation and active interaction with Your Office through financial contributions, information-sharing and addressing the existing challenges. We would like to recall the letters dated 3 May, 7 June and 22 July 2011 those were sent by the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to OHCHR concerning the intentional killing of 2 Azerbaijani children. In those letters we requested the condemnation by the High Commissioner of the grave violations of the international law instruments with regard to children's rights and sharing these details with the relevant mandate holders of the Human Rights Council.

We are upset to see no substantive reaction from OHCHR concerning this matter so far and would like to see OHCHR reacting as responsive and active as the Office did concerning the case with the so-called briefing notes on 16th August 2011 which have already been addressed by the Azerbaijani side in due course.

The Permanent Mission is always available for OHCHR concerning the protection and promotion of the human rights in our country.

Thank you.