



*Check against delivery*

**UN Human Rights Council  
Forty third Session**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur  
on the rights of persons with disabilities**

**Statement**

**delivered by Ms. Marziyya Vakilova-Mardaliyeva, First Secretary of the Permanent  
Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International  
Organizations in Geneva**

**February 28, 2020**

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities Ms. Catalina Devandas Aguilar for the presentation of her report.

We welcome the special focus by the Special Rapporteur on fighting ableism against persons with disabilities in her report. We share the view that to combat ableism, States must raise awareness throughout society of the values and capabilities of the persons with disabilities.

Azerbaijan believes that recognition of skills of persons with disabilities can change attitudes towards them. To emphasize that people with disabilities are contributing members of inclusive society, different measures aimed at social integration of persons with disabilities are continuing to be implemented in Azerbaijan.

Among them are the first Children's Paralympic Committee in the world established in Azerbaijan, Boccia Sports Federation and the first inclusive theatre, the creative staff of which are the actors with and without disabilities. Despite recent commencement of its activity, the theatre has staged successful performances and gained great public sympathy.

We are also of the same opinion that inclusive education is one of the strongest tools for combating ableism. In order to promote inclusive education, the State Program for the Development of Inclusive Education in Azerbaijan for 2018-2024 was approved. Furthermore, in 2019 the tuition fees for persons under the age of 18 with disabilities, who study on a paid basis, were covered by the state by the Executive Order of the President of Azerbaijan.

I thank you.