



***Check against delivery***

**Statement by Mr. Seymur Mardaliyev,  
Charge d'Affaires a.i of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
to the UNOG in Geneva**

**General discussions  
ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment**

**Geneva, 25 June 2019**

Mr. Vice-President,

At the outset, we would like to thank you for your opening remarks and for your excellent leadership in overseeing the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment. Our appreciation also goes to the Emergency Relief Coordinator Mr. Mark Lowcock for presenting the report on the strengthening of the coordination of the emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

We live in troubling times when tasks before the humanitarian community have never been more daunting. The challenge of growing and increasingly complex humanitarian needs is unprecedented. Many humanitarian crises have become so protracted that they now seem permanent. Conflicts remain the main drivers of humanitarian needs with huge negative impacts on human development indicators, including levels of poverty, malnutrition, access to basic services and social rights.

Addressing these challenges requires a collective reflection on how we can best and in a joined-up effort to cope with the humanitarian challenges. It is in our common interest to ensure that humanitarian workers have necessary support and tools to operate in the fast-changing humanitarian landscape. We must learn the lessons from the past crises and pave the way for more sustainable responses. Operationalization of the humanitarian - development nexus and also taking into account the peace dimension can help alleviate vulnerabilities and reduce needs in a long-term perspective. We must leave no one behind and deliver the 2030 Agenda.

But we have to be clear in our minds: humanitarian aid can never ultimately be a solution to a conflict. Bearing this in mind, we have to redouble our efforts on political solutions to put an end to on-going conflicts which in its turn is the only way to put an end to the human sufferings they bring.

Internal displacement has significant effects on economic and social development as well as peace and security in affected countries. With numbers of IDPs continuing to rise and many situations remaining unresolved and worsening, it is absolutely essential to scale up efforts to improve both responses and planning to address internal displacement and to reassess particularly how UN can engage from a whole-of-system perspective. Being one of the co-sponsors and as a country hosting one of the largest IDP populations per capita in the world as a consequence of the ongoing aggression and occupation of one fifth of the internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan by Armenia, we reiterate our continuous support for establishing a high-level panel on internal displacement as a timely initiative for improving the

international community's approach to addressing IDP situations. At the same time, protracted nature of these situations should receive the attention it deserves. GP20 plan of action opens favorable opportunities for galvanizing the attention in terms of addressing protracted internal displacement and driving durable solutions for IDPs.

Mr. Vice-President,

70 years have passed since the adoption of the milestone Geneva Conventions of 1949, but they remain even more relevant and indispensable than ever. This anniversary is a powerful opportunity for reinforcing their continuing importance and effective implementation in the current environment of increasing disrespect to the international humanitarian law. Azerbaijan will continue advocating for the protection of civilians and respect for international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles.

While speaking about the upholding the international humanitarian law, it is also crucial to pay careful attention to the attempts to misuse sufferings of vulnerable groups in the malicious political interests as it is the case of the ongoing policy of resettlement of refugees from the Middle East, particular from Syria and Iraq in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan by Armenia in a grave violation of the international humanitarian law. Without adequate and timely reaction, the illegal resettlement policy carried out in the occupied territories could complicate a search towards durable solutions by creating obstacles for ensuring the right of the expelled indigenous Azerbaijani population to return voluntarily to their native lands in safety and dignity and subsequently prolong their protracted situation.

Another issue requiring the urgent global focus is the drastic increase in persons reported missing in connection with armed conflict. Azerbaijan continues its consistent efforts to raise awareness of the problem at the international level and further develop the rules-based guidance including through sponsoring the biannual resolution on missing persons at the General Assembly. Azerbaijan's efforts proceed from its keen interest in contributing to the strict observance of the international humanitarian law as well as from our experience on addressing the consequences of aggression, foreign military occupation and ethnic cleansing. We also welcome the first ever resolution recently adopted by the UN Security Council on the issue of missing persons in armed conflict which is a good sign of the UN's increased attention to this pressing matter.

Mr. Vice-President,

Allow me to conclude by reaffirming the strong commitment of Azerbaijan towards saving lives and alleviating human suffering through principled humanitarian actions. As a donor country, Azerbaijan will remain closely engaged with the multilateral humanitarian system to address today's humanitarian challenges.

I thank you.