



**UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-sixth Session
General debate on Item 9**

**Right of reply in response to the statement made by the delegation of the Republic of Armenia
delivered by Mr. Yalchin Rafiyev, first secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

26 September 2017

Thank you Mr. President,

We would like to exercise our right of reply in response to the statement made by the delegation of Armenia during the general debate on Agenda item 9 of the Human Rights Council.

First of all we reject all affirmations made by the delegate of Armenia in her statement. Contrary to what arguments that have been raised in the statement of Armenia, we would like to emphasize that Azerbaijan has opened its doors to all Armenians who wish to visit Azerbaijan. Recently many Armenian civil society members and other Armenian citizens have visited Azerbaijan and have witnessed by their own eyes how Armenian heritage is preserved in the country and how more than one hundred thousand Armenians are living in peace and dignity.

As for the issue of “Armenophobia”, we would like to recall the statement made by former president of the Republic of Armenia: “Azerbaijanis are genetically incompatible with Armenians”. It is ridiculous to hear the statement from the delegation of a country, head of state of which make such a discriminatory statement and now the same delegation blames Azerbaijan on discrimination and intolerance against Armenians.

Finally, I would like to pose a very simple question to the delegation of Armenia, the answer of which will make it clear for all delegations sitting in this room to understand which country is pursuing discriminatory policy and ethnic cleansing: How many Azerbaijanis are currently living in the territory of Armenia?

Thank you Mr. President.