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Second intersessional meeting on human rights and the 2030 Agenda

delivered by Shahriyar Hajiyev, Third Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

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Thank you, Mr Chairperson,

Azerbaijan is pleased to be among the members of the Group of Friends on Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda that initiated the Second Intersessional Meeting. We would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Permanent Mission of Chile for organizing today's meeting with qualified and esteemed speakers.

Ensuring human rights and fundamental freedoms stands as the highest priority objective of the state and constant measures are implemented by the Government of Azerbaijan to this end.

Taking into consideration the necessity of a holistic approach to be applied to the implementation of SDGs, Azerbaijan was one of the first countries establishing the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development functioning under the leadership of the Deputy Prime Minister. A core function of the Coordination Council is to ensure inclusive stakeholder participation and translate SDG Agenda into a national context by aligning national plans and strategies with the SDGs.

Furthermore, acknowledging the central role of the UN High-Level Political Forum in overseeing goals and targets enshrined in the 2030 Agenda, Azerbaijan is among few countries submitting its second Voluntary National Review in 2019. The Review is an overview of the efforts made with respect to policy pursued for the achievement of SDGs to make progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

I thank you.