

**21st session of the Human Rights Council
Interactive dialogue with High Commissioner
10 September 2012
Remarks by Azerbaijan**

Madame High Commissioner,

At the outset, we would like to express our profound respect and gratitude to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Madame Navi Pillay for her leadership and dedication in the promotion and protection of the human rights all over the world. While supporting the activities of the Office, the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan has made a decision to make modest voluntary contribution to the budget of the Office for 2012.

This Council session is taking place in an important period in the sense that the world community encounters the new emerging challenges and opportunities for the peace, security and sustainable development. The recent environmental, economic and social indicators demonstrate that the models for progress and development need to be modified and adapted. Conflicts, aggressive expansionist policies, environmental degradation, human rights abuses, financial crises coupled with the other threats such as terrorism, separatism, trans-national organized crime and extremism continue to affect millions of people around the world.

Madame High Commissioner,

The Republic of Azerbaijan was represented in the Rio+20 Conference on the high-level, by the First Deputy Prime Minister, which shows the importance that our country attaches to this process.

Azerbaijan is determined to contribute further to the realization of the development goals and objectives agreed within the United Nations. Over the recent years, Azerbaijan has enhanced its humanitarian assistance to support international and national efforts aimed at eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development and global prosperity for all. Along with its international efforts, the Government of Azerbaijan is taking measures for the integration of human rights considerations and a vision of sustainable development. In that regard, we would like to cite the implementation of the State program on poverty reduction and sustainable development in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2008-2015 and National Program for Action to Raise Effectiveness of the Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms in the Republic of Azerbaijan just to name a few.

Madame High Commissioner,

The year of 2012 was particularly useful in terms of the intensive development of the relations between Azerbaijan and OHCHR. As you know, the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan has expressed its readiness towards the joint

cooperation with OHCHR within the National Program for Action to raise effectiveness of the protection of human rights and freedoms in the Republic of Azerbaijan. In similar vein, we believe that the technical assistance and expertise of OHCHR will be of crucial nature on the path of the realization of the National Program.

Thank you for attention.