

**20th session of the Human Rights Council
Interactive dialogue with High Commissioner
18 June 2012
Remarks by Azerbaijan**

Madame High Commissioner,

Allow us first of all, to congratulate You on the reappointment to the post of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and assure Your Excellency of our full support and cooperation.

We fully share the views of High Commissioner concerning countering all forms of discrimination. As multiethnic and multi-religious country Azerbaijan seeks to contribute to the dialogue of civilizations. The multicultural dialogue in our country can be used as an example of peaceful coexistence between people of different religions and backgrounds.

In spite of these times of devastating economic strife and recession Azerbaijan is continuing to achieve major development indicators during its short period of independence. The implementation of a number social projects and programs, as well as large-scale economic reforms substantially contributed to the creation of better living conditions for people, poverty reduction and the fight against corruption.

Madame High Commissioner,

The rampant economic growth of our republic made Azerbaijan a country of destination for foreign migrants at a time of worldwide financial and economic crises. In order to protect the rights of migrant workers, the Government of Azerbaijan is making efforts to sign bilateral inter-governmental agreements on cooperation in the field of labour migration and to improve the relevant legislation on this issue based on the international practice. At the same time, we believe that only integrated and coordinated actions to address the human rights dimension of migration can cultivate real positive outcomes both at the national and international levels.

Last but not least, we have been encouraged by the readiness of your Office to propose the list of issues for providing its advisory services and other technical assistance to the Government of Azerbaijan to support activities and needs established under the National Program for Action to raise effectiveness of the protection of human rights and freedoms in the Republic of Azerbaijan endorsed by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in December 2011. The proposals of your Office are still being closely considered by the relevant state agencies of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Thank you for attention.