



**UN Human Rights Council  
Fortieth Session**

**Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and the Independent Expert on albinism**

**Statement  
delivered by Ms. Marziyya Vakilova-Mardaliyeva, Second secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

**March 6, 2019**

Mr. President,

We thank both mandate holders for presenting their reports. We welcome special emphasis on the awareness-raising activities in the report by Ms. Devandas Aguilar as an important measure to shift the public narrative about persons with disabilities and to combat stereotypes against them.

Azerbaijan believes that raising public awareness can change negative attitudes about disabled people into positive recognition of their skills. In this regard different awareness-raising campaigns have been launched in my country to emphasize that people with disabilities are contributing members of inclusive society. One of the recent sound example is a film entitled "We are different but equal" which was produced in cooperation with the EU, UNDP, UNICEF and Heydar Aliyev Foundation on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities marked on 3 December.

In recent years substantial work has been initiated to improve social protection of persons with disabilities, including measures for integration, rehabilitation, accessibility and inclusive education. The Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has been approved on May 31, 2018, taking into account recommendations by NHRI and civil society and also revised by the UN CRPD. Public Council comprising of the representatives of 15 civil society organizations, including 7 NGOs representing persons with disabilities was also actively involved in the process of drafting of this law.

A new ICT based TSERAS system of disability assessment, which is a system of medical and social expertise and rehabilitation, developed and established in Azerbaijan, was recognized as an efficient and transparent working mechanism and recommended by the UN for sharing and application in the framework of South-South Cooperation.

Taking this opportunity let me stress that we welcome the decision of the UN Secretary General to promote the System Wide Action Plan on Disability Inclusion across all pillars of the UN work. Azerbaijan will continue supporting all efforts to this end.

I thank you.