



*Check against delivery*

**Human Rights Council intersessional meeting for dialogue and cooperation on  
human rights and the 2030 Agenda**

**Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality societies**

**Statement**

**delivered by Mr. Emin Aslanov, Second secretary of the Permanent  
Representation of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other  
International Organizations in Geneva**

**Geneva, 15 January 2019**

At the outset, let me emphasize that Azerbaijan is pleased to be among the members of the Group of Friends on Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda which has initiated today's meeting. I congratulate the members of the Group who have worked hard to carry this initiative through and also thank the OHCHR for the excellent organization of today's meeting with incredibly qualified and esteemed speakers.

I would like to underline some of the measures my country has taken with regard to implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which embodies all human rights.

Building inclusive and resilient growth, ensuring dynamic and sustainable development, continuing investments into human capital are among the top priorities for the Government of Azerbaijan. The principle of "leaving no one behind" has become the core of its social and economic policies.

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 (Coordination Council) functioning under the leadership of the Deputy Prime Minister.

The Azerbaijani Commissioner for Human Rights is part of the Coordination Council and acts as a bridge between civil society and the Government.

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.

Having said that, I would like to bring an example of our newly approved Employment Strategy, which has been drafted in a way that it streamlines the main targets of SDGs, such as Goal 1, Goal 4, Goal 8 and Goal 10, and addresses most of the recommendations we have received from international human rights mechanisms in the relevant field. Reducing unemployment to 4 percent by 2030, increasing labor productivity, improving inclusiveness of labor market, ensuring easy access to social benefits and trainings for vulnerable groups are among the main purposes of the Strategy.

It is in line with the notion of “leaving no one behind” that the Sustainable and Operative Social Protection Agency has been established to reach especially vulnerable people by using more accessible and modern services.

Azerbaijan considers monitoring, evaluation and accountability as crucial aspects of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. To this end, we have been taking necessary measures to ensure the availability of statistical systems to allow tracking and evaluating progress with broad involvement of all stakeholders, including civil society organizations.

Furthermore, acknowledging the central role of the UN High-Level Political Forum in overseeing goals and targets enshrined in the 2030 Agenda, Azerbaijan has

submitted in 2017 its first Voluntary National Review Report on the implementation of SDGs. My country intends to submit its second VNR this year.

Since its adoption, we have been actively supporting and promoting 2030 Agenda in different international and regional platforms.

With a view to ensuring effective implementation of SDGs and their regional coordination, our country together with the UN Office in Azerbaijan organized a Forum on Sustainable Development entitled “Strengthening international and regional partnership in the implementation of SDGs” in Baku on 25th October 2018. The Forum gathered high-level officials responsible for coordination of implementation of SDGs at the national level, Human Rights Commissioners of different countries as well as UN representatives, international and local experts.

We have distributed the summary report of the Forum outside the room for those who wish to get themselves acquainted with the more detailed information about the Forum and its outcome.

I thank you.