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**UN Human Rights Council  
Fortieth Session  
Annual Full-Day Meeting: Rights of the Child  
Theme: Empowering children with disabilities for the enjoyment of their human rights,  
including through inclusive education  
Statement  
delivered by Ms. Marziyya Vakilova-Mardaliyeva, Second secretary of the Permanent  
Representation of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International  
Organizations in Geneva**

**March 4, 2019**

Madame Vice-President,

My delegation welcomes this full-day meeting dedicated to the topic of empowering children with disabilities, including through inclusive education.

We recognise and promote the inclusive education as a central element for the development of the inclusive and fair society. It ensures that all children are able to be part of their community and provides better opportunities for learning. It also helps to combat discrimination and promote diversity and participation.

An inclusive and targeted social protection system has been formed in Azerbaijan that covers broad categories of population and is based on inclusive approaches towards all vulnerable groups of the society, including children with disabilities.

"State Program on Development of Inclusive Education for People with Disabilities for 2018-2024" has been recently approved to ensure inclusive education system enabling participation of all learners at all stages. The Program provides relevant measures for adapting the educational system and schools to the needs of children with disabilities, trainings for teachers, creating a special database, carrying out awareness-raising programs, etc. A specialised department has been established in Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University to provide quality training programmes for teachers.

A project on "Expanding Quality Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities" implemented jointly by the Ministry of Education, UNICEF and the EU was launched in 2015. The project foresees building skills of teachers to deliver high quality inclusive education in mainstream classrooms. Last year children with disabilities have been involved in inclusive education at 4 schools within this project. Overall, the project aims to provide inclusive education to approximately 5,000 children with disabilities by 2020.

Azerbaijan remains committed to empowering children with disabilities, including through inclusive education. This commitment is also in line with our broad efforts for SDGs implementation based on the principle "leaving no one behind".

I thank you.