



**UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-seventh Session**

**Clustered Interactive Dialogue
with the Special Rapporteur on cultural rights and
the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and
fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism**

Statement

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

March 1, 2017

Mr. President,

We express our gratitude to both rapporteurs for their reports and comprehensive presentations today.

With regard to the report on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, while countering terrorism, let me underline that, as a country that has repeatedly been a target of terrorist attacks, Azerbaijan strongly condemns terrorism, violent extremism and armed separatism in all their forms and manifestations. We are of the view that all terrorist acts, regardless of their motivation constitute serious crimes and must be explicitly condemned and prosecuted.

We fully share the view that measures aimed at preventing and combating terrorism, including declaration of emergency on which the Special Rapporteur elaborated today should be consistent with and applied in a manner that respects international human rights law.

As regards the report on cultural rights, we concur with the idea of cultural rights being essential tools for achieving development, peaceful coexistence and for building social cohesion, as well as mutual respect and understanding between individuals and groups in all their diversity.

Mr. President,

Being a historically multiethnic and multi-confessional country, Azerbaijan is committed to promotion of multiculturalism and intercultural dialogue both at home and all around the world.

It is in this context that, Azerbaijan has been sponsoring the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue in Baku once every two years since 2011. The Forum serves as an international platform to enable and encourage people, countries and organizations around the globe to take concrete actions to support diversity, dialogue and mutual understanding among nations by raising awareness on the importance of intercultural dialogue worldwide.

This commitment of Azerbaijan to promotion of intercultural dialogue was widely praised in the Baku Declaration of the 7th Global Forum of UN Alliance of Civilizations hosted by my country in 2016.

Thank you.