

**Azərbaycan Respublikasının
Cenevrədəki BMT Bölməsi
və digər beynəlxalq təşkilatlar yanında
Daimi Nümayəndəliyi**



**Permanent Mission
of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the UN Office and other
International Organizations in Geneva**

237 Route des Fayards, CH-1290 Versoix, Switzerland Tel: +41 (22) 9011815 Fax: +41 (22) 9011844 E-mail: geneva@mission.mfa.gov.az Web: www.geneva.mfa.gov.az

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

**Interactive dialogue with the
Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent**

S t a t e m e n t

delivered by Mr. Yalchin Rafiyev, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

September 26, 2017

Mr. Vice president,

We welcome the WG of experts on People of African Descent and thank them for the presented report.

Human rights values, such as equality and non-discrimination are at the heart of the Sustainable Development Agenda. SDGs provide a comprehensive framework to effectively combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, Afrophobia and related intolerance that people of African descent face every day around the world. As the Working Group rightly concluded in the report, given their cross-cutting nature, the SDGs and targets will not be met if the states do not acknowledge that previously referred manifestations of intolerance will continue to function as structural and systemic barriers to sustainable development for the people of African descent.

Azerbaijan is dismayed about the reality that people of African descent continue to suffer from many multiple, aggravated and intersecting forms of discrimination which eventually leads to their unequal access to key educational resources, including the skilled teachers and quality curricula. Despite the existence of copious evidence that in some states students of African descent routinely receive dramatically different learning opportunities based on their social status, the Republic of Azerbaijan, throughout its history, provided every opportunity for the people of African descent to study in Azerbaijan with the financial assistance of both the Government and the charity NGOs, in particular Heydar Aliyev Foundation. We are honored that, nowadays, a number of African state leaders and ambassadors of African countries in Geneva have studied in Azerbaijan. Educational

institutions of Azerbaijan continue to offer scholarships for the students of African descent. This undoubtedly contributes to the successful implementation of SDG4 which aims at ensuring an inclusive and equitable quality education for all.

In the last session of the Human Rights Council, Azerbaijan was pleased to join the core group of the initiative on the promotion and full respect of human rights of the people of African descent together with Brazil, Costa Rica and the African Group.

In conclusion, we assure the international community that the Republic of Azerbaijan will spare no effort to contribute to the promotion and protection of the rights of people of African descent in the future.

Thank you Mr. Vice president.