



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

**General Debate on Item 5  
Human rights bodies and mechanisms**

**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 14, 2017**

Mr. President,

The delegation of Azerbaijan would like to use this occasion to recall and underline the importance of work conducted by the special procedures mandate holders.

We believe that a robust system of special procedures guided by the principles of transparency, fairness, impartiality and inclusiveness is an important might serve as an important tool for the Human Rights Council accomplish its tasks as enshrined in the General Assembly resolution 60/251 on establishment of the HRC.

As a country believing in importance of country visits by mandate holders, Azerbaijan has extended a standing invitation to all mandate holders and has always reiterated its strong interest in continuing constructive dialogue and interaction with them.

We also believe that, without prejudice to the independent character of mandate-holders and of their judgments and assessments, being vocal about problems observed in the methodology of conducting business by mandate-holders is crucial in order to help them effectively fulfill their mandate.

In this context, without going into details, we wish to flag few of the obvious problems, such as continuous practice by certain mandate holders of generating urgent appeals for the cases that do not meet conditions necessitating urgency as outlined in “Manual of operations of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council”; in other cases, credibility of sources of information are not verified, in

some cases mandate holders prepare biased and politically motivated reports or press releases failing to indicate any response given by a concerned States.

We are of the view that concerns of this kind, shared by many States, constitute an alarming tendency and could eventually cast shadow on impartiality and objectivity of the important work carried out by mandate-holders.

Certain practices of HRC Secretariat in complying with existing regulations of facilitating access of different stakeholders in addressing the HRC sessions raise also some questions in our delegation. During the last 2 weeks we have addressed three inquiries to the Secretariat to get answers to our questions, but all inquiries left unresponded. We call upon the Secretariat to improve its means of operative communication with UN Member States.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate that, Azerbaijan appreciates its constructive dialogue and cooperation with the UN human rights mechanisms with a view to enhancing the promotion and protection of human rights.