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Statement by the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan

**as delivered by Mr. Seymur Mardaliyev,
Counselor of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UNOG in Geneva**

**16th session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation
of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

**Item 9: consideration of elaboration of a draft UN Declaration on the promotion and full
respect of human rights of people of African descent**

Geneva, 29 August 2018

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation welcomes the convening today's meeting to consider the elaboration of a draft UN Declaration on the promotion and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent as requested at the HRC resolution 35/30.

Azerbaijan notes with deep concern that despite the advances in international and national law, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance continue to manifest themselves in inequality and disadvantage against people of African descent. People of African descent suffer from many multiple, aggravated or intersecting forms of discrimination that should be strongly tackled with victims to receive appropriate remedies.

We support the idea behind the need for adoption of declaration on the promotion and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent, considering that it could bring added value towards the elimination of racism and all forms of racial declaration. Many positive developments have taken place following the launch of International Decade for People of African Descent both on global and regional levels, which in our opinion, opens favorable opportunities for further evolution of this important exercise.

Mr. Chairman,

The elaboration of the declaration should be an open and inclusive process with engagement of all relevant stakeholders, particularly with states from Africa, civil society from African or other countries promoting and protecting human rights of people of African Descent.

We hope today's deliberations will send a clear message to states for the need to start the negotiations on such instrument and this will be reflected in the final report of the Working Group.

Thank you.