

Remarks by Azerbaijan  
18<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council  
ID with WG on mercenaries  
Geneva, 13 September 2011

Ms. President,

The Delegation of Azerbaijan welcomes the report of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination and thanks the Chairperson/Rapporteur Jose Luis Gomez del Prado for the introductory statement.

The report shows clearly that the Group is constantly trying to reflect the new dimensions of its mandate in the broad range of countries throughout the world.

There is no doubt that problems connected with the use of mercenaries are of urgent and exceptional importance for Azerbaijan. Probably, Working Group is fully aware of the fact that the Azerbaijani territories are occupied by the neighboring country which made extensive use of mercenaries through their directly recruitment, financing and training by its Government. These actions have so far undermined the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan which threatens and impedes full exercise of the right of self-determination by the people of Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijani side has long ago shared its findings in that regard with the mandate which were reflected in the relevant report of the Secretary General of UN and is ready for the future cooperation. Our country is committed to the only possible view that mercenarism is an unacceptable phenomenon, which is prohibited by the legislation in force in Azerbaijan, under which the national army is formed exclusively from the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Being one of 32 countries those are party to the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries and without any reservation, Azerbaijan shares the concern of the Working Group regarding the ratification of this important international instrument.

Last but not least, we would assure of the Working Group of our full support and cooperation.

Thank you.