



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the membership of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the United Nations**

On 2 March 1992, the Republic of Azerbaijan became a member of the United Nations according to the Resolution 46/230 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

Since that time it has changed dramatically setting very ambitious goals and striving to achieve them. Over the last years Azerbaijan experienced political stabilization and democratic reformation, strengthened its position in the global economy and significantly improved the social welfare.

From the very beginning of its membership in the United Nations Azerbaijan has been protecting and promoting the values and principles of the UN Charter and International Law. During that period, Azerbaijan has been a member of a number of principal organs of the United Nations: the Security Council (2012-2013), the Economic and Social Council (2003-2005; 2017-2019), Commission on Human Rights (2005-2006), and the Human Rights Council (2006-2009).

Located at the crossroads of the East and West, Azerbaijan with its great history, culture, customs and traditions is committed to promotion of values of multiculturalism, peaceful coexistence, and mutual understanding.

The economic potential, social progress and political stability achieved over this period enables Azerbaijan to mitigate the impacts of ongoing global financial and economic recession. Growing cooperation with the UN system is a fundamental condition for this.

The contribution of Azerbaijan to the promotion of intercultural dialogue and solution of global humanitarian issues within the framework of the United Nations, its respect for multicultural values and traditions of tolerance and diversity have earned Azerbaijan great sympathy around the world.

At present, Azerbaijan has entered a very important period in its development having set ambitious goals based on SDGs and aimed at increased prosperity for the people of Azerbaijan, further developing its economy and strengthening its sovereignty. The United Nations is a trusted and reliable partner of Azerbaijan in these endeavours.

However, the on-going Armenian-Azerbaijani military conflict represents a serious threat to the regional peace. In the early 1990s, as a result of Armenia's military aggression against Azerbaijan, 20 per cent of Azerbaijani territories, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven adjacent districts, were occupied by Armenia. As a result of this occupation and the policy of ethnic cleansing carried out by Armenia in the historic Azerbaijani territories, which are now within present-day Armenia, and in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan more than one million Azerbaijanis became refugees (more than 250.000 persons) and internally displaced persons (about 800.000 persons) respectively.

As a result of the massacre committed by Armenians in the town of Khojaly in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan on 26 February 1992, 613 civilians were killed, including 106 women and 63 children. Armenia ignores the implementation of four Resolutions by the UN Security Council – 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993) – unanimously adopted by

the UNSC and condemning the occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan and reaffirming respect for its sovereignty and territorial integrity, the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory. Azerbaijan has consistently stressed the importance of respect for the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Member States and the need to implement the relevant Resolutions of the UN Security Council.