



**UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-fifth Session
General debate on Item 2
Oral update by the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights**

Statement

**delivered by Amb. Vaqif Sadıqov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of
Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva
7 June 2017**

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights his comprehensive update, and express our gratitude for acknowledging the responsible attitude demonstrated by Azerbaijan towards reporting to the Treaty Bodies.

We also thank the High Commissioner for highlighting the seriousness of the human rights problems deriving from the existence of the armed conflicts around the world. Indeed, the experience shows that the armed conflicts create conducive conditions for the deprivation of the basic rights of people to life, property, health, food, education, as well as other grave violations of human rights. In particular, the protracted conflicts in the South Caucasus lead to situations where killings, torture, and forceful displacement of thousands of people are regrettably becoming ordinary daily news.

My country has been experiencing such violations for more than 25 years in the course of the on-going aggression by neighbouring Armenia and military occupation of our territories, accompanied by large-scale ethnic cleansings and other gross violations of international human rights law. The long-term silence of the UN Human Rights Council and the OHCHR about this appalling situation cannot be justified any more.

We share the view of the High Commissioner that providing access to the mandate holders and UN field staff to visit the countries is a more efficient form of engagement of the UN Member States with the UN human rights mechanisms than a remote monitoring which might lead to an incomplete and distorted picture of the realities on the ground. The denial of access to the UN representatives is a growing concern, in particular, in case of Armenia, which as it is seen from the High Commissioner's report, is the only country in the South Caucasus denying access of the UN field staff under various pretexts. Azerbaijan urges the High Commissioner to take necessary measures to ensure access of the OHCHR representatives to this country, fairly assess human rights situation there, and report about its findings to the next session to the UN Human Rights Council.

In this regards, it has to be stated that the time has come to develop, in addition to the existing special procedures, a comprehensive mechanism of regular reporting by the OHCHR country representatives to the Member States on their operations in the relevant countries and the situation with the human rights there.

Thank you.