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**UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-fourth Session
Interactive dialogue with the
Special Rapporteur on the rights of the persons with disabilities**

S t a t e m e n t

March 6, 2017

Thank you Mr. President,

The delegation of Azerbaijan welcomes the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and thanks her for the comprehensive report.

Mr. President,

Azerbaijan's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (and its Optional Protocol in 2009) has underscored its commitment to protection of the rights of disabilities. Azerbaijan has backed up its international obligations by enacting and amending its legislative framework in key areas affecting the persons with disabilities.

The Cabinet of Ministers, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, State Social Protection Fund and other bodies of the Republic of Azerbaijan in charge of executing programmes with regard to persons with disabilities.

The "State Program on the treatment, prevention of and measures on fight against multiple sclerosis", "Program of Measures on haemophilia for 2011-2015 years", "Program of Measures on diabetes mellitus for 2011-2015 years", "Program of Measures on fight against tuberculosis for 2011-2015 years", "Program of Measures on immunoprophylaxis of infectious diseases for 2011-2015 years", "State Program on fight against thalassemia for 2015-2020 years" and other such documents play an important role in the resolution of issues related to the social protection of persons with disabilities.

The law "On prevention of disability and impairment of the children's health, rehabilitation and social protection of disabled people and children with impaired health" and laws on the protection of population's health, education of children with impaired health (special education), narcological service and control, state care for persons suffering from diabetes, state care for persons suffering from multiple sclerosis, state care for persons suffering from hereditary blood diseases such as haemophilia and thalassemia, donorship of blood, blood components and blood service, oncological assistance, circulation of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors guarantee such social protection programs of persons with disabilities.

Mr. President,

The organizational activities had been implemented by the Azerbaijani Government to ensure the free access of persons with disabilities to the social infrastructure, the "Rules on Creating Necessary Conditions for Activities of Persons With Disabilities and Limited Movement Abilities During the Design of Buildings and Constructions" were developed with the participation of

specialized civil society organizations under the “Standard Rules on Creating Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities” project.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan, for the purpose of execution of responsibilities set forth in the “National Action Program on Ensuring the Efficiency in the Field of Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms in the Republic of Azerbaijan” has envisaged, based on own Action Plan, the training of professionals with skills of alternative cipher and sign language, the organization of specialized courses and trainings based on modern education programs to train rehabilitation specialists in different fields, establishment of sign language surdo centers in capital city Baku and other cities and towns of the country and the training of medical staff and other personnel familiarize the mimics of persons with hearing impairment to work in such centers.

The passages constructed for pedestrians over last several years were equipped with relevant devices to help persons with disabilities in order to ensure free, easy and safe use, platforms on railway stations were brought to even level, as well as big and medium size buses imported to the country have special seats for persons with disabilities. Along with that, taxi cabs running in the country have mechanisms to carry wheelchairs in to and out of the vehicle and it is planned to have such equipment on busses as well.

Proactive measures are being undertaken by the Urban Planning and Architecture Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, based on the “Urban Planning and Construction” Code, namely the Article 57.2.7 to ensure the compliance of new construction with relevant requirements in order to ensure and accessibility of the disabled persons.

The system of different social payments – labor pensions, social allowances and presidential pensions for disablement are being defined and paid in the country to persons with disabilities. 27% of those getting labor pensions, 57.2% of those getting social allowances and 52.2% of those getting presidential pensions are persons with disabilities. Over the period, the labor pensions for disability had increased 3.3 and social allowance had increased 2.6 times.

Under the provision of housing and vehicles to disabled persons, until recent period the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection had provided vehicle to 5339 persons with disabilities and provided housing to 4506 persons enjoying exemptions at the account of the state.

Persons with disabilities receive medical and social rehabilitation and provisions with prosthetics-orthopedic supplies. Currently, there are 14 rehabilitation centers for persons with disabilities in the country. Centers for the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities cover every year around 8000 persons at the account of the state, around 5000 persons with disabilities are being provided with prosthetics and orthopedic supplies and rehabilitation means.

Azerbaijan carries active state policy to strengthen the social protection of persons with disabilities to achieve the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Agenda 2030. Due to this reason Azerbaijan created the National Coordinating Council for Sustainable Development Goals. The main purpose of creating the Council is to define the national priorities until 2030, which are of great importance for Azerbaijan and correspond to global tasks and goals, ensure the compliance of state programs and strategies covering the socio-economic spheres with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, as disability is referenced in various parts of the SDGs and specifically in parts related to education, growth and employment, inequality, accessibility of human settlements, Azerbaijan highlights the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the realization of the rights of the persons with disabilities.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our commitment to further promotion and protection of rights of the persons with disabilities.

Thank you.

