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Statement

33rd session of the Human Rights Council

Agenda item 9

General Debate

26 September 2016

Mr. President,

Azerbaijan is concerned that people in many parts of the world continue to suffer daily from racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

With long-standing traditions of tolerance and non-discrimination, Azerbaijan attaches great importance to the intercultural and inter-religious dialogue. Azerbaijan as a multiethnic and multi-confessional country plans and implements its national policy in all fields with the consideration of traditional tolerance and harmonic coexistence of different national, ethnic, linguistic and religious groups.

Azerbaijan carries out many activities for promotion and protection of multiculturalism, and serving a better understanding between different cultures. The 7th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations which was hosted this year by Azerbaijan, and the Baku International Humanitarian Forum to be held in the upcoming days, as well as the work of the Baku International Multiculturalism Centre should be highlighted in this regard.

Mr. President,

As a result of the aggression by Armenia, almost 20 percent of the territory of Azerbaijan continues to remain under occupation and more than one million Azerbaijani refugees and IDPs are unable to return to their homes. Almost 30 years ago, by implementing a policy of ethnic cleansing of all non-Armenians in its own territory, Armenia, forcibly evicted the only Muslim ethnic group there, that is 250,000 ethnic Azerbaijanis. In the meantime, Azerbaijan has preserved its ethnic and cultural diversity to the present day, and there are still 30,000 Armenians living in Baku alone. At the same time, the Armenian church has been preserved in Baku.

It is very regretful that racial superiority and hatred against other nationalities and religions became the state policy of Armenia. The high-ranking Armenian officials regularly make statements that openly promote ethnically and religiously motivated hatred and intolerance.

It is also a matter of serious concern that the racist nationalist ideology of the Government of Armenia, developed on the basis of the fascist ideologies of racial discrimination, “Aryan race” and anti-Semitism, is included in the curriculum of Armenian secondary and higher schools, and the younger generation is being brought up in these spirits.

At the end, the Government of Armenia should understand that if they live in this region, for the interest of their own people, they should learn to live in conditions of peace, tolerance and mutual respect.

Thank you for attention.

