

**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
32nd session of the Human Rights Council
General debate**

Agenda item 2

Geneva, 29 June 2016

Mr. Vice-President,

At the outset, Azerbaijan extends its deepest condolences to Turkey in regard to the ruthless terrorist attack that killed and injured innocent people at Ataturk Airport in Istanbul yesterday. Azerbaijan, as a country suffering from terrorism, strongly condemns terrorism and all of its forms and manifestations, and fully supports the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Vice-President,

We thank the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for presenting an update to the Human Rights Council on the recent developments in different parts of the world on 13 June 2016.

The rights of people still suffering from the armed conflicts in and around Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan are the matter of serious concern. We share the view of the High Commissioner that significant efforts are needed to address the situation of displaced people, which includes about 800.000 Azerbaijani IDPs. We stress the importance of ensuring the inalienable right of all forcefully expelled Azerbaijani IDPs to a safe, dignified and voluntary return to their homes. In this regard, the position of the High Commissioner on the flagrantly violated human rights of Azerbaijani IDPs by Armenia in the course of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict as envisaged in the relevant UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions would be very important. The Human Rights Council and its special mechanisms also should play an increased role in the restoration of human rights of Azerbaijani IDPs.

Azerbaijan reaffirms once again its unequivocal commitment to the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and the inviolability of internationally recognized borders of all UN Member States and fully adheres to the solution of all existing conflicts among States on the basis of these principles.

With respect to the Joint Statement on the human rights and humanitarian situation in Georgia's regions of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia, delivered today under agenda item 2, we reiterate our strong support for the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Georgia, within its internationally recognized borders.

We remain deeply concerned by the human rights situation in Georgia's regions of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia. We call for the full respect of the rights of local population residing in both regions. We also stress the importance of ensuring the inalienable right of all forcefully expelled IDPs and refugees to a safe, dignified and voluntary return to their homes.

Last but not least, we call upon the High Commissioner to pay due attention in his next updates to the Human Rights Council to the situation of intolerance and discrimination against non-citizens, as well as ill-treatment, harassment, incitement to violence and hate speech towards minorities, and anti-Semitic and Islamophobic manifestations in Norway and Ireland.

Thank you Mr. Vice-President.