

Statement by the Republic of Azerbaijan

Interactive dialogue with High Commissioner

31st session of the Human Rights Council

10 March 2016, Geneva

Mr. High Commissioner,

We thank you for presenting your annual report to the Human Rights Council on the work of your Office. Having studied the report we express our gratitude for the activities of the Office undertaken during last year under your leadership.

Azerbaijan highly appreciates the activities carried out by the Office to support the Human Rights Council, Special Procedures, Treaty Bodies, and Universal Periodic Review as the major tools of the UN human rights machinery.

We also support the reshaping process of OHCHR structure and believe that this process will further make the organization more responsive to increasing needs and expectations of Member States and other stakeholders.

Mr. High Commissioner,

It is well-known that peace, security, development, and human rights are interconnected. Therefore, severe human rights violations taking place during armed conflicts has been several times highlighted in our statements during the sessions of this Council. The indifferent stance of the world community vis-à-vis ongoing conflicts in the South Caucasus and lack of insufficient political will to assist in the process of peaceful settlement pave the way for new conflicts, which are accompanied by even more serious human rights violations. In this regard, while supporting your efforts to further integrate human rights in the United Nations peace and security agenda, we are of the view that international community, in particular United Nations has to invest more efforts to the settlement of these armed conflicts in order to prevent further gross human rights violations.

In conclusion, Mr. High Commissioner, being aware of the role of Sustainable Development Goals as an effective tool in global efforts towards attaining peace, prosperity and growth, we wish you and your Office every success in supporting States for implementation of the Agenda`s human rights related goals and targets.

Thank you.