

Statement by the Republic of Azerbaijan
Geneva Conference on Preventing Violent Extremism
The Way Forward

Geneva, 7-8 April 2016

Honourable Secretary-General,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, Azerbaijan expresses its gratitude to the United Nations and the Swiss Government for convening this Conference, which is indeed dedicated to the very important issue.

Historically, there have never been cases of extremism, antisemitism, xenophobia, religious intolerance and racism in Azerbaijan, and this situation continues until today. Our country is renowned as a place with traditions of ethnic and religious tolerance and peaceful coexistence. Azerbaijan condemns violent extremism and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. In this regard, we welcome the initiative of the Secretary General to develop the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The statement made by the Armenian representative today again contained traditional absurd accusations against Azerbaijan. The mixture of different irrelevant, inaccurate and inconsistent issues in the statement of the Armenian delegate indeed stand firmly against the background of irrefutable facts testifying to the opposite. This is of course the clear indication of a current dire economic, political, social, and military situation in Armenia.

With regard to the refugees issue that was raised by the Armenian representative, it should be highlighted that Armenian government misuses the miserable fate of Syrian refugees in its own malicious political interests to promote the illegal practice, by trying to settle Armenians from Syria in the occupied lands of Azerbaijan in a grave breach of international humanitarian

law, in particular the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention and its First Additional Protocol. We have already informed the UN Secretary General and the UNHCR about this.

Speculations on the fictitious “anti-Armenian hate speeches” in Azerbaijan are also beneath all criticism. The thrust of the statements of Azerbaijan is to call on Armenia to release the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and its 7 adjacent districts. As for the “hatred”, it is suffice to mention that, Armenia by implementing a policy of ethnic cleansing of all non-Armenians in its own territory, forcibly evicted the only Muslim ethnic group in Armenia, that is 250,000 ethnic Azerbaijanis at the end of 1980s. 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.

Further, it is ridiculous that with all belligerent and inflammatory rhetoric and hysteria of the government of Armenia which only promotes the policy of aggression, it lectures others about the “glorification of the criminals” issues. The international community is well aware of the criminal activities of Armenian terrorist organizations such as ASALA and “Justice Commandos”, as well as about the continuous glorification by Armenia of its own terrorists, such as Varujan Karapetyan, Monte Melkonian, Drastamat Kanayan, the nazi general Garegin Nzhdeh, and others. Furthermore, it is very regretful that Armenian government continues to use such terrorist organizations for their subversive actions against Azerbaijan and other countries.

As regards the very recent military provocations by Armenia, we would like to state that Armenia has received a very strong response from the Azerbaijani army. And if Armenian government does not put an end to its policy of aggression, as is foreseen in the four UN Security Council Resolutions, the consequences for this country will be even worth.

In this regard, Azerbaijan reiterates that the primary reason of the tension in the region is the unlawful presence of the armed forces of Armenia in the territories of Azerbaijan. The Republic of Azerbaijan calls upon the international community to condemn Armenia on its blatant violation of international humanitarian law. Azerbaijan will spare no efforts to ensure peace and justice in the region.