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Statement

Oral update on Ukraine by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Geneva, December 12, 2016

At the outset, I would like to express our deepest condolences to the families of those who lost their lives as a result of the terrific terrorist attack committed in Istanbul and reiterate our solidarity with the brotherly people of Turkey.

Mr. High Commissioner,

The 2016 has witnessed the continuation of the ongoing protracted armed conflicts resulting, *inter alia*, in long-term sufferings of civilian population, accompanied by significant refugee and IDP situations, and large-scale violations of human rights which mark the alarming global trends.

In this regard, we welcome the recent increased interest of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to the plight of the victims of ongoing armed conflicts dealt with by the UN General Assembly and Security Council documents.

As a matter of principle, Azerbaijan condemns any forms of violent extremism and aggressive separatism, and reaffirms once again its unequivocal commitment to sovereignty and territorial integrity of the States, which constitute the basis of relations among the UN Member States and that of international peace and security.

Having experienced a quarter-of-a-century long history of the occupation of 20 percent of its territory, accompanied by ethnic cleansing, large-scale massacres, and violations of human rights of one million Azerbaijani refugees and IDPs, my country fully adheres to the solution of all existing conflicts among the States on the basis of these principles.

Guided by the above-mentioned, and mindful of its position expressed on numerous occasions in the UN, Azerbaijan reaffirms its commitment to sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Thank you.