

**Remarks by Azerbaijan
19th session of the Human Rights Council
General debate under item 6
16 March 2012**

Thank you Madame President,

We would like to make the following remarks in national capacity concerning the UPR process and its follow-up.

Our approach towards the participation in the UPR process is commonly of positive nature. UPR does not represent a process of trial but a forum for dialogue and cooperation. In that regard, the UPR process has positively contributed to the improvement of human rights situation in a number of countries.

While we are moving towards the 2nd cycle of UPR process, we firmly believe that purely human rights nature of this mechanism should be preserved. It is discouraging to notice that politicization of this process could not be avoided during the first cycle and this matter should be taken into account at the second cycle. States under review should focus exclusively on the situation of human rights in their own territories and not accuse other countries of mishandling human rights through abusing this universal mechanism.

Madame President,

Let us remind that the Government of Azerbaijan has submitted its interim report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the outcome of the universal periodic review on Azerbaijan. We thank you, Madame President and Secretariat for circulating this very document as an official document of Human Rights Council under the agenda item 6. The midterm update on follow-up to accepted recommendations is presented by the Government of Azerbaijan on the voluntary basis as its serious and steady commitment to the promotion and protection of all human rights in the country.

We hope that the update of the Human Rights Council about the national measures carried out in the field of human rights by the Government of Azerbaijan will successfully contribute to the much more effective and productive participation of our country in the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review.

Thank you Madame President.