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Remarks by the Delegation of AZERBAIJAN

Agenda Item 3

ID with SRSG on Children and Armed Conflict

18th session of the Human Rights Council

Geneva, 12 September 2011

Madame President,

At the outset we would like mention that the promotion and protection of the rights of children is on the top of human rights agenda of Azerbaijan. The provisions of the CRC and its Optional Protocols, to which my Government is party, have been reflected in the national legislation of Azerbaijan. Using this opportunity we would like also to mention that the initial report of the Government on the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of the Children in armed conflicts will be reviewed by the Committee on the Rights of the Child next year.

Madame President,

Let me reiterate that Azerbaijan fully supports the strengthened cooperation between the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children and armed conflict and the United Nations system through regular information-sharing and advocating for the protection of children affected by armed conflict and is completely confident that the Special Representative is aware about the latest correspondence of the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan regarding the recent killing of the Azerbaijani children as a result of ceasefire violations. These documents have been circulated as the official documents of the 17th and 18th sessions of the Human Rights Council.

We in its whole meaning share the views of the Special Representative that children have increasingly turned into the primary targets of the current armed conflicts, including the international ones. However, we would underline that punishment for the killing of the innocent children by the opposite side during the international armed conflict is undeniably hard to achieve which in its turn obviates the impediments to the culture of impunity by the other violating party to the Convention of the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols. In that regard we would recommend the Special Representative to be actively engaged with a more focused attention to the serious and flagrant violations of the rights of children during the international armed conflicts. At the same time we would like to pose a question to the Special Representative:

- What options are available in order to achieve the punishment of those who are to be held accountable belong to the adverse party of the international armed conflict?

I thank you for your attention.

Let me reiterate that Azerbaijan fully supports the strengthened cooperation between the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children and armed conflict and the United Nations system through regular information-sharing

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- What options are available in order to achieve the punishment of those who are to be held accountable belong to the adverse party of the international armed conflict?