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**UN Human Rights Council
Forty third Session**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur
in the field of cultural rights**

**Right of reply
exercised by Ms. Marziyya Vakilova-Mardaliyeva, First Secretary of the Permanent
Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International
Organizations in Geneva**

March 4, 2020

Thank you, Mr. Vice-president,

I am exercising this right of reply in response to the right of reply that has been made by Armenia. Mr. Vice-president, we call on you to urge Armenian representative not to abuse this Council and to stick to the accepted language of the United Nations when referring to the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan as indicated in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

We regret that the Armenian delegation is again resorted to baseless polemic and to its usual disinformation tactics speaking about the importance of the preservation of cultural heritage.

Armenia which has established itself as a monoethnic state at the expense of a policy of total ethnic cleansing of all non-Armenian population both in its own territory and the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, carries out a deliberate policy of cultural terror against Azerbaijani indigenous religious and cultural heritage both in Armenia and in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Almost all religious and cultural sites, mosques, cemeteries were destroyed or damaged in the occupied territories. No single monument testifying to centuries' old cultural and religious presence of Azerbaijanis in modern territory of Armenia escaped desecration or complete destruction.

Suffice is to mention Juma mosque in the occupied Aghdam city of Azerbaijan representing the valuable heritage for the whole Islamic civilization which was plundered and today this mosque is used as a piggery by Armenians. Today we also witness so called ruin tourism flourishing in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan when destroyed

Azerbaijani religious and cultural sites serve as a background for taking photos by so-called progressive and democratic Armenian youth.

The above-mentioned facts illustrate HOW Armenia as an occupying power preserves and protects religious sites and places of worship in reality. By so-called restoration of the mosque in Shusha, Armenia is only desperately trying to demonstrate its alleged respect for religious values, which is nothing but hypocrisy.

Following the OSCE-led fact-finding and field assessment missions in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan in 2005 and 2010, the Co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group urged the Armenian side to refrain from actions that would change the demographic, social, or cultural character of those territories and would make it impossible to reverse the status quo and achieve a peaceful settlement. However, the missions' recommendations remained on paper.

Mr. Vice-president, may I pose a question to the Armenian representative through you: how Armenia is going to carry out its duties insisted on by itself in the General Assembly resolution 60/251, while it pursues policy of aggression against neighboring country and disregards the General Assembly, as well as the Security Council resolutions?

I thank you.