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**UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-ninth Session**

Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on use of mercenaries and the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes

**Statement
delivered by Aydan Muradova, Third Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

September 12, 2018

Mr. President,

Azerbaijan welcomes Special Rapporteur Mr. Baskut Tuncak and thanks him for the presented comprehensive report.

Process of defining factors that can negatively affect human health in hazardous and arduous industry is carried out in Azerbaijan through laboratories of the State Labor Inspectorate. Relevant bodies of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources within their competence supervise the implementation of occupational safety standards in the country.

Mr. Special Rapporteur,

The right of every human being for a decent life, which includes the right to work in a safe and healthy workplace is indisputable, and undoubtedly instead of being something that humanity should be reminded about in the 21st century, should have already been long time ago an accomplished goal.

But this is not surprising indeed, because we live in the times when preference is given to close the eyes and not even react and give requisite response to the operation of a nuclear plant which uses Chernobyl technology in the extremely delicate seismic zone, despite having had witnessed just little more than 30 years ago what devastating consequences such practice could lead to.

Mr. Tuncak, we call upon you to pay attention in your next report to the outdated Metsamor Nuclear Power Plant, which started to operate in Armenia back in 1976 and which is regarded as a clock bomb threatening the South Caucasus region and its broader

neighbourhood. The Plant fails to meet the internationally accepted safety standards and has neither emergency core cooling system, nor primary containment structure.

Moreover, there have been official statements in recent years by senior officials in Armenia to use nuclear wastes from this station to prepare for a nuclear attack against Azerbaijan and other regional countries, as well as the documented cases when due to poor security regulations the nuclear fuel from this power station was smuggled and sold in the neighbouring countries to international criminal and terrorist networks. In total disregard of the danger the Plant poses, Armenian government extended the service life of the Plant, which doesn't have an existing radioactive disposal facility, until the year 2026.

In conclusion, Mr Special Rapporteur, we would like to reiterate that the nuclear terror and blackmail policy of Armenia is in need for your soonest and due attention.

Thank you, Mr. President.

