

JOINT STATEMENT

**on the promotion of SDGs and human rights through efficient,
transparent and accountable public service delivery**

Human Rights Council 36th session

**to be delivered by the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan during the
general debate on agenda item 3**

15 September 2017

Mr. President,

I have the honor to deliver this joint statement on behalf of a cross-regional group of 78 states, including the African Group. The full list of states co-sponsoring this statement will be placed at Extranet.

It is increasingly recognized that development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights. The SDGs acknowledge the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that are based on respect for human rights, on the rule of law, good governance and on effective public institutions.

Effectiveness of public institutions from the perspective of citizens can only be assessed through the degree of professionalism, transparency, accountability, and efficiency of these institutions. Public service upholding the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity is one of the essential components of good governance.

We recognize that transparent delivery of public services helps to reduce the perceived level of corruption. Transparent public service free from corruption eventually leads to increased confidence in public institutions. Public service delivery accountable in nature and consistent with citizens' needs and feedback is one of the core elements of safeguarding efficiency in public sector.

Accessibility is an additional key component of ensuring effectiveness in public service delivery. According to article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 25 (c) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, every citizen has a right to have access, in general terms of equality, to public service in his/her country.

The subject matter has been high, for a while, at the United Nations agenda from anti-corruption and public administration perspectives. However, human rights aspects of the issue have been dealt with only on an ad-hoc basis.

The Human Rights Council, as the primary body of the UN responsible for human rights issues, has not considered so far human rights context of the public service delivery as a standalone subject. In this regard, we acknowledge the importance of filling this gap and highlighting the significance of efficient public service delivery in the context of full enjoyment of human rights and implementation of the relevant provisions of SDGs.

Since sustainable development and human rights are complex issues that must be dealt with holistically by all sectors of society, we believe that the process of evolution of the current initiative involves a variety of non-public stakeholders, such as private sector, academia and civil society with a view to benefit from their valuable experience and inputs.

Thank you, Mr. President.

#	UN member state	#	UN member state
1	Afghanistan	40	Libya
2	Algeria	41	Madagascar
3	Angola	42	Malaysia
4	Azerbaijan	43	Malawi
5	Bahamas	44	Mali
6	Bahrain	45	Mauritania
7	Benin	46	Mauritius
8	Botswana*	47	Mongolia*
9	Burkina Faso	48	Morocco
10	Burundi*	49	Mozambique
11	Cabo Verde	50	Namibia
12	Cameroon	51	Niger
13	Central African Republic	52	Nigeria*
14	Chad	53	Peru
15	Chile	54	Philippines*
16	Comoros	55	Portugal*
17	Congo*	56	Republic of Korea ¹
18	Côte d'Ivoire*	57	Rwanda*
19	Democratic Republic of the Congo	58	São Tomé and Príncipe
20	Djibouti	59	Saudi Arabia*
21	Ecuador*	60	Senegal
22	Egypt*	61	Serbia
23	Equatorial Guinea	62	Seychelles

¹ Republic of Korea joined to the statement after its delivery becoming 79th state supporting the statement.

24	Eritrea	63	Sierra Leone
25	Ethiopia*	64	Somalia
26	Fiji	65	South Africa*
27	Gabon	66	South Sudan
28	Gambia	67	Sri Lanka
29	Georgia*	68	Sudan
30	Ghana*	69	Swaziland
31	Guinea	70	Thailand
32	Guinea-Bissau	71	Togo*
33	Indonesia*	72	Tunisia*
34	Iraq*	73	Uganda
35	Islamic Republic of Iran	74	Ukraine
36	Kazakhstan	75	United Arab Emirates*
37	Kenya*	76	United Republic of Tanzania
38	Lesotho	77	Venezuela*
39	Liberia	78	Zambia
		79	Zimbabwe

* Members of the UN Human Rights Council

24 HRC Members + 55 Observers