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**UN Human Rights Council  
Thirty-sixth Session  
General debate on Item 4**

**Right of reply in response to the remarks by Ireland, Norway and Luxembourg  
delivered by Mr. Emin Aslanov, second secretary of the Permanent Mission of the  
Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

**19 September 2017**

Thank you Mr. Chair,

Exercising our right of reply with regard to remarks made by delegations of Ireland, Norway and Luxembourg, I wish to state followings:

Fully aware of the role that the vibrant civil society can play in a democratic country, the Government of Azerbaijan has taken continuous steps in ensuring conducive environment for functioning of non-government organizations and further enhancing the capacities of the domestic NGOs.

However, it is unfortunate to witness that, the efforts to ensure transparency in the activities of civil society are sometimes purposefully misinterpreted and presented in distorted manner by some countries using human rights for exerting political pressure aimed at both intervening State's domestic affairs and affecting its independent foreign policy. This unacceptable and counterproductive practice should be stopped.

Let me underline that, we are also deeply concerned about reported rise of extremism, radicalisation, xenophobia and islamophobia in Ireland, Norway and Luxembourg. We condemn the practices of police profiling on religious grounds. We call on Ireland to take measures to counter discrimination against the Traveller community.

Thank you.