



## **Virtual meeting on OHCHR Annual Report 2019**

### **Statement delivered by Ambassador Vaqif Sadiqov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan Geneva, 5 June 2020**

Madame High Commissioner,

I would like to congratulate you for the presentation of the Human Rights Report 2019.

The Republic of Azerbaijan is of the view that its co-operation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner is important for the increase in the level of the human rights standards in the country.

Among good examples of this cooperation I would like to mention the effectiveness of the Resource Centre that functions to enhance the capacity of national actors in promoting and effectively protecting human rights, the activities carried out with the Bar Association of the Republic of Azerbaijan in capacity building measures, and legal aid services provided in the regions of the country in co-operation with the Office of Ombudsperson.

It is worth mentioning trainings and seminars organized by the Office for various stakeholders in Azerbaijan, including those who work in the field of rule of law, rights of women and children, social work, and sustainable development. These trainings brought together 281 participants in 2019 - a substantial increase in comparison with 2018. The comprehensive statistical data provided in the Report about the projects gives a better outline of the Office's activities implemented during the period.

Finally, I would also like to encourage the Office to make a resolute shift towards the restoration of human rights of almost one million internally displaced persons and refugees in Azerbaijan violated almost thirty years ago. The only long-term solution which is their return to native homes has to become a triumph of justice for these people. Otherwise, if not delivered, the failure to do this will end up in ruining their respect for international law. We should not shy away from bringing to accountability the governments that are actively involved in perpetuating human rights violations of IDPs and refugees, we should not reward the perpetrators and have to bring back justice for the benefit of their victims. OHCHR still has an unfinished business in this area.

Thank you.



