

**Azərbaycan Respublikasının
Cenevrədəki BMT Bölməsi
və digər beynəlxalq təşkilatlar yanında
Daimi Nümayəndəliyi**



**Permanent Mission
of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the UN Office and other
International Organizations in Geneva**

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

**Interactive Dialogue with
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 13, 2017

Mr. President,

Azerbaijan expresses appreciation to Mr. Tuncak for the presented comprehensive report.

Despite the fact that the report focuses on the good practices in relation to the human rights obligations related to the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, it at the same time demonstrates how much still needs to be done in this area.

It is simply enough to mention the shameful and humiliating fact for the humanity that 1.7 mln children under the age of 5 die each year as a result of toxic exposure and other aspects of an unhealthy environment.

As it is mentioned in the report, States have an obligation to respect, protect and fulfill recognized rights implicated by the production, use, release, storage and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes. We fully agree that States must recognize their obligations to respect, protect and fulfill recognized rights extraterritorially.

In this regard, Mr. Special Rapporteur we would like to draw your attention to the outdated Metsamor Nuclear Power Plant, which started to operate in Armenia in 1976 and which is regarded as a clock bomb threatening the South Caucasus region and its

neighborhood. The Plant is located in extremely delicate seismoactive zone, it fails to meet the internationally accepted safety standards and has neither emergency core cooling system, nor primary containment structure. 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.

Ecological terror of Armenia has no frameworks and the population of my country living in the frontlines knows this as nobody else. The rivers flowing through Armenia to Azerbaijan are intensively contaminated with chemical, radioactive and other hazardous substances.

Mr. Special Rapporteur the ecological terror policy of Armenia is in need of your soonest and due attention.

Thank you for your attention.