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37th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Clustered ID with SR on truth, justice and reparation and SR on genocide

Statement

delivered by Emin Aslanov, Second Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

02 March 2018

Thank you Mr. President,

The firm position of the international community with regard to the condemnation of gravest crimes against humanity and bringing their perpetrators to justice is exemplary for collective efforts to strengthen the rule of law in international relations.

It is important to reiterate that administration of justice over cases of gross violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, providing adequate and effective reparation to victims and the need for institutional actions to prevent repetition of such violations are all necessary adjuncts to a true conflict resolution and imperative for effective and politically uncompromising system of international criminal justice. These actions are undeniable prerequisites for maintenance of international peace and security.

Unfortunately, not all grave violations of international and human rights law have received due attention and response at the international and regional levels. As a result, past wrongs left unpunished and unrecognized. Impunity for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the recent decades continue to impede the progress in achieving long-awaited peace and reconciliation. Even more worrisome is the fact that those responsible for genocide and gravest crimes of humanity continue to enjoy impunity and to be even in the position of the head of state.

It is important to provide for that peace and preventive diplomacy efforts contribute to ensuring accountability and under no circumstances tolerate or encourage the acceptance of situations achieved by the unlawful use of force and other egregious violations of international law, such as genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing.

In this regard, ending impunity is essential not only for the purposes of prosecuting crimes and bringing those responsible to justice, but also to ensure sustainable peace and reconciliation.

I thank you, Mr. President.