



**UN Human Rights Council  
Fortieth Session**

**Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment and the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing**

**Statement  
delivered by Ms. Aydan Muradova, Third Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

**March 4, 2019**

Mr. President,

At the outset, taking this opportunity my delegation would like to extend congratulations to Mr. Boyd upon his appointment as the new Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment and wish him every success in fulfilling his mandate.

Mr. Special Rapporteur,

We particularly appreciate the attempt to draw requisite attention to one of the vital elements of the right to a healthy and sustainable environment - which is the right to breathe clean air, through your presented report.

In Azerbaijan, addressing environmental issues, improving ecological situation are essential parts of the State policy, as well as of the country's sustainable development strategy.

Just as indicated in the report, Azerbaijan is among the countries with good practices when it comes to struggling air pollution and making dedicated efforts in this regard.

In recent years, measures like, improving the monitoring, early warning systems, applying new modern technologies when evaluating and forecasting environmental processes, setting up the latest generation of automated stations to conduct continuous monitoring of air pollution, and providing online information on the state of atmospheric air have been taken in Azerbaijan.

Mr. Special Rapporteur,

One of the key messages that can be derived from the report is the fact, that the human made harm on environment eventually leads to the adverse impact of this harm on human rights - and the case of air pollution is an excellent example of this.

But if in the best case scenario the unconsciousness can be transformed into consciousness and lead to the elimination of the problem, what about certain real-time scenarios such as, when an occupying State, in an absolute conscious manner, is conducting the policy of purposeful horrific damage to the environment in the illegally occupied lands on a regular basis, which includes large scale arsons of unique forests, burning and degrading of soil, contamination of water resources, eradication of rare animal species and biodiversity patterns, barbaric and illegal exploitation of natural resources, and the list can go on and on. Any reasonable explanation behind such an ecological terror policy, Mr. Special Rapporteur? None at all, except for the 1) self-acknowledgement by the occupying power of the fact that the occupation is only of temporary nature and 2) the true motive to devastate and destroy everything to the maximum extent before these territories return to where they historically belong.

Thank you.