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

**General debate on item 2**  
**Oral update by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**S t a t e m e n t**

**delivered by Amb. Vaqif Sadiqov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

**September 12, 2017**

Mr. President,

Ladies and gentlemen,

We thank the High Commissioner for his comprehensive update. It is our firm conviction that the practice of updating the Human Rights Council on human rights situation around the globe provides food for thought for the member and observer states to elaborate on the most burning human rights issues.

We share the assessment of the High Commissioner that in recent years the world has grown darker and dangerous and today we are faced with unprecedented scale of human rights violations around the world. We are very much concerned about this situation which necessitates the advancement of the work of both OHCHR and the Human Rights Council.

As it can be assumed from the update of the High Commissioner, most of the human rights violations are rooted in the conflict situations. In the presence of unresolved conflicts one cannot exclude the possibility of more human rights violations. The conflict situations are not limited only to those conflicts that were enlisted in the High Commissioner's update, but they include also conflicts referred to in the respective UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions that have been continuing for decades, and dealing with them is not a choice but obligation for the OHCHR and Human Rights Council.

In this regard we support the UN Secretary General's prevention strategy which prominently features the human rights approach. Prevention goal should be permanently embedded in to the human rights agenda of the United Nations in order to preclude further

violations and to protect those whose rights have been violated over the years during the conflicts.

Therefore, we believe that the potential of the OHCHR and the Human Rights Council should be adequately adjusted to respond to existing and emerging challenges. Only through this way we will be able to see progress in the global efforts to promote and protect human rights.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate that, Azerbaijan remains committed to engaging in genuine dialogue and cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner.

Thank you.