

**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**

237 Route des Fayards, CH-1290 Versoix, Switzerland Tel: +41 (22) 9011815 Fax: +41 (22) 9011844 E-mail: geneva@mission.mfa.gov.az Web: www.geneva.mfa.gov.az

Check against delivery

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

General debate on Item 9

**Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up
and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

Statement

**delivered by Mr. Yalchin Rafiyev, First secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of
Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

26 September 2017

Mr. Vice President,

Azerbaijan is situated in the crossroads of different civilizations, cultures and religions. Geographic location between Europe and Asia played its role in cultural diversity of Azerbaijan. For centuries, representatives of all cultures, religions, ethnicities have lived in Azerbaijan in peace and dignity as one family and contributed to the successful development of the country. This is the most precious asset of Azerbaijani society. Baku, the capital city of Azerbaijan has become in recent years the center of international efforts to promote the values of multiculturalism, peaceful co-existence and mutual understanding.

As a people who experienced the most aggravated forms of discrimination by the neighboring Armenia which conducted ethnic cleansing of Azerbaijanis both from Armenia and from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, we understand better than everyone what does discrimination and intolerance mean. Currently there is no single person of Azerbaijani descent living in Armenia. Just for comparison, I would like to inform the distinguished delegates that before the outbreak of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict this number was hundreds of thousands. This policy of Armenia is a textbook example of ethnic cleansing.

This discrimination policy of Armenia was also condemned by several members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in the latest review of Armenia this year.

Thank you Mr. Vice President.