



Check against delivery

**First Formal Meeting of All States
on implementation of Resolution 1 adopted at the 32nd International Conference of
the Red Cross and Red Crescent on
“Strengthening IHL protecting persons deprived of their liberty”**

**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**

(6-7 April 2017. Geneva)

Madam Chair,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Azerbaijan highly commends and expresses appreciation to ICRC for all the work it has carried out and we would particularly like to thank ICRC for the timely preparation of all the relevant documents.

To the deepest regret, humanity fails to make any significant progress with regard to the armed conflicts, which continue to undermine peace and security in our already vulnerable and fragile world. And as we all know innocent human beings continue to shoulder the biggest burden during armed conflicts.

Without doubt, detention is an ordinary and expected occurrence in the armed conflict. Persons deprived of their liberty in principle should enjoy the legal protection, while in practice we observe the complete opposite of this.

In order to guarantee the effective implementation of the rules providing humanitarian protection to the detainees it is vitally important to define the Parties to the conflict. It is a common knowledge that in the majority of the current ongoing armed conflicts non-state actors are one of the Parties to the conflict, and they are the ones who present different interpretation and understanding of IHL. This is one of the main stumbling blocks which does and will cause in the future the long-term deadlock of the process. Therefore, it is highly important to reflect and address this issue in the further work of the process.

As it was previously stated during the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the Republic of Azerbaijan disassociates itself with any provisions of the resolution, which could entail any cooperation with non-State Parties to armed conflict.

We welcome the non-politicized, collaborative nature of the further work to strengthen IHL protecting persons deprived of their liberty and hope that our joint efforts will produce productive, concrete and implementable outcome.

Thank you.