



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

**Interactive Dialogue  
with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion  
and expression**

**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**

**June 20, 2018**

Thank you Mr. Vice-President,

We express our gratitude to both rapporteurs for their reports and comprehensive presentations today.

We have taken note of the thematic report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression which focuses on regulation of online content by States and social media companies vis-à-vis the duties and rights of States in the context of the human rights law.

We are of the view that, it is not only an imperative duty, but also positive obligation of the States to create and protect enabling environment for exercising freedom of expression, which is one of the integral components of a democratic society.

Meanwhile, bearing in mind the extensive scope of states' duties and obligations before their nations, one should not neglect importance of certain regulations that States have to establish and regularly update in order to tackle contemporary challenges that our societies face as byproducts of information Age.

The ensuring right to freedom of expression should not therefore rule out the need to combat efficiently threats, such as terrorism or prevent incitement to hatred, violence and discrimination, as well as the use of hate speech offline and online.

We believe it is essential to strike the right balance between the duty to protect the freedom of expression and introducing certain conditions that are necessary in democratic societies, in accordance with relevant human rights mechanisms.

Thank you.