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**40<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Human Rights Council  
General debate on item 9  
Statement**

**delivered by Shahriyar Hajiyev, Third Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of  
Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

**19 March 2019**

Thank you Madame Vice-president,

At the outset, let me express our deep grief by dreadful attack to the Mosques in New Zealand. We extend our deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of those who lost their life and the people of New Zealand, and wish the injured soonest recovery.

We thank the OHCHR for its report and are concerned that manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, Islamophobia and related forms of intolerance have frequented in political-social life and public discourse over the world. States, in cooperation with international and national stakeholders, should develop proactive policies to prevent and combat these intolerances.

Believing in crucial role of intercultural dialogue as an antidote to the abovementioned dangerous trends, Azerbaijan continues to invest huge efforts to promotion of intercultural dialogue globally. Azerbaijan hosts regular international forums and conferences dedicated to issues of multiculturalism, to foster interreligious and intercultural dialogue and understanding.

The 5th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue will be held in early May 2019 in Baku which aims to serve as an international platform to enable and encourage people, countries and organizations to advance concrete actions to support diversity, dialogue and mutual understanding as foundations for sustainable peace and inclusive development.

Thank you.