



**38th session of the Human Rights Council
Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Transnational Corporations
and Other Business Enterprises with respect to human rights**

STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

delivered by Mrs. Kamala Huseynli-Abishova

22 June 2018

Thank you Mr. Vice-President,

We welcome both mandate holders at the Human Rights Council and thank them for the presentation of their reports.

We wish to reiterate our firm support to the process of elaborating international legally binding instrument to regulate, in international human rights law, the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises and commend the tremendous efforts undertaken by the delegation of Ecuador to that end.

Unfortunately, valuable but non-binding, voluntary rules aimed at the protection of human rights while doing business have not been able to ensure access to effective remedy, particularly in conflict and post conflict situations. It is therefore important to merge our efforts towards the elaboration of an international legally binding instrument in order to straighten accountability and redress for victims of violations committed by TNCs and OBEs.

As for the presentation of Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, we wish to inform that transparency, independence and professionalism of legal profession are the key features that prevail in the domestic policy of Azerbaijan in relation to this particular field of activity. Proceeding from this determination, the Government continues to pursue consistent reforms. Only in the first 6 months of 2018 three hundred qualified lawyers have been admitted to the National Bar Association through country-wide national examinations.

Thank you Mr. Vice-President.