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42nd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

**Clustered ID with SR on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation
and**

**SR on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound
management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes**

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**

09 September 2019

Thank you, Mr. President,

We would like to express appreciation to Special Rapporteurs for the presentation of comprehensive reports today.

As the water safety and quality are fundamental to human development and well-being, the Government in our country constantly implements infrastructure projects on safe drinking water and sanitation. As a result of the measures taken, 81.5 % of the population of the capital – Baku and 67 % of the whole population are continuously provided with drinking water.

It should be noted that, there can be no durable and sustainable peace in the world if the environment that sustains livelihoods, is destroyed, polluted and barbarically exploited. The continuing aggression and occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan by neighboring Armenia, deprives hundreds of thousands of citizens of Azerbaijan of drinking water, causes soil erosion, dehydration and desertification and severely affects region's economy.

Sarsang reservoir, locating in the occupied territories, is used by Armenia as a means of mass destruction against Azerbaijan by deliberately preventing access to drinking and irrigation water for other regions of Azerbaijan. The rivers flowing through Armenia are intensively contaminated with chemical, radioactive and other hazardous substances.

The environment is being severely damaged by the continuing illegal exploitation by Armenia of natural resources in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Such exploitation has generated significant profit for Armenia, to continue funding a war against our country.

The relevant report of the Special Rapporteur should, among others, focus, investigate and reflect the crimes against environment committed by Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and the damage it continues to cause.

Thank you for your attention.