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**32<sup>nd</sup> session of the UPR Working Group  
UPR of Slovakia**

**Statement**

**delivered by Marziyya Vakilova-Mardaliyeva, Second secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

**28 January 2019**

Mr. Vice-President,

We welcome the positive changes in the field of human rights in Slovakia and the adoption of strategies in the fields of child's and women's rights.

We note with appreciation the adoption of the Action Plan for the Rights of National Minorities and Ethnic Groups 2016–2020. However, we are concerned that the intolerance against Muslims, Jews, persons of African descent and Roma and phenomena of hate crime and hate speech against minorities and non-citizens remained prevalent in Slovakia.

In this context, Azerbaijan recommends Slovakia to:

1. create environment inclusive for all persons belonging to ethnic, national and religious minorities through promoting tolerance and ensure equal opportunities for their participation in decision-making process,
2. adopt effective measures to prevent racist attacks and to combat hate rhetoric and ensure that all racially motivated crimes, incidents of hate speech, as well as allegations of excessive use of force by police officers are investigated, and perpetrators brought to justice.

We further recommend to:

3. effectively promote the participation of women in public sector, and
4. ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).

We wish Slovakia a successful review.

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President.