



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

**Clustered Interactive Dialogue
with the Special Rapporteur on cultural rights and
the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and
fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism**

**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**

March 6, 2017

Mr. President,

Let me start by thanking both rapporteurs for their comprehensive presentation and valuable time spend on preparing such extensive reports about quite important topics for the mankind.

Regarding the report on countering terrorism without going into details, I wish to briefly stress that, Azerbaijan strongly condemns terrorism, violent extremism and armed separatism in all their forms and manifestations and supports all the endeavors of protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms while combating this dangerous scourge.

As regards the report on cultural rights, I am proud to underline that as a historically multiethnic and multi-confessional country, ensuring cultural rights and the protection of cultural rights and property have always been among priorities of Azerbaijan's state policy.

Having acknowledged that opting for promotion and protection of multiculturalism rather than cultural and ethnic isolation is the best way to pursue for the prosperity of our societies, Azerbaijan has been hosting World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue in Baku once every two years since 2011.

However, colleagues, I regret to inform you that since 1990s, cultural and religious heritage representing the very richness of Azerbaijani culture have been savagely damaged and ruined by Armenia not only within the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the seven surrounding districts but also within the territory of Armenia itself.

The OSCE fact-finding missions in 2005 and 2010 have reported on the intentional mass destruction of Azerbaijan's cultural heritage in its occupied territories.

Looting of museums, mass destruction of monuments of historical, cultural and religious significance, attempts of rewriting the history, changing the facts on the ground continue to remain state policy of Armenia.

Thank you.