

**Remarks by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
31st Session of the Human Rights Council  
Oral update on Ukraine by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Geneva, March 22, 2016**

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Mr. High Commissioner,

Azerbaijan commends cooperation of the Ukrainian Government with the UN Mission in Ukraine, and welcomes the recent adoption of the national Human Rights Action Plan.

Azerbaijan takes positive note of the reduction in hostilities during the reporting period, however it is worried over civilian casualties, and by the scale of IDPs and missing persons in the armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine.

Mr. High Commissioner,

In the course of this Session, many Delegations stressed the paramount importance of the UN Charter in the promotion of the rule of law among nations. The on-going protracted armed conflicts resulting, *inter alia*, in long-term sufferings of civil population, accompanied by significant refugee and IDP situations, and large-scale violations of human rights mark the alarming global trends. In a number of cases, certain UN Member States do not fulfil their obligations under Article 2 of the Charter to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force.

It is on this assumption, that Azerbaijan condemns any forms of violent extremism, radicalism and aggressive separatism, and reaffirms once again its unequivocal commitment to the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and the inviolability of internationally recognized borders of all UN Member States.

Having experienced a more than a quarter-of-a-century long history of the occupation of 20 percent of its territory, accompanied by ethnic cleansing, large-scale massacres, and violations of human rights of one million Azerbaijani refugees and IDPs, Azerbaijan fully adheres to the solution of all existing conflicts among States on the basis of these principles.

Guided by the above-mentioned, and mindful of its position expressed during the adoption of the UNGA Resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014, Azerbaijan once again affirms its commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

In this regard, Azerbaijan urges the Human Rights Council and the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure equal treatment of human rights violations committed in the course of all armed conflicts without exception, in full compliance with the relevant Security Council and General Assembly Resolutions.

Thank you.