

Statement by the Republic of Azerbaijan

Item 6. General debate

31st session of the Human Rights Council

18 March 2016, Geneva

Mr. President,

Being a party to the core international legal documents in the field of human rights, Azerbaijan actively cooperates with all mechanisms of the Human Rights Council. In this regard, we attach importance to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism as one of the major successes of this Council.

We believe that the principles of universal coverage and equal treatment of states are the essential causes of this success. By reviewing all UN Member States in an equal manner, the UPR process significantly contributes to the improvement of human rights situations in all over the world. The UPR process is also important in terms of fulfilment of the States' human rights obligations and commitments, as well as assessment of positive developments and challenges faced by States. In this regard, the closer links between human rights and the foreign policy of individual states necessitates the closer consideration of the political developments around the countries concerned.

Mr. President,

Passing through two fruitful cycles of UPR, the Government of Azerbaijan reiterates its openness and willingness to further cooperation with UPR mechanism. These two reviews allowed us to see achievements we accomplished and challenges we face, and through this way to define our future activities for promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Azerbaijan also highly appreciates the practice of presenting voluntary mid-term reports. Azerbaijan has submitted its first interim report in 2012, between the first and second cycles of UPR. We are very pleased to inform the Council that yesterday we have presented our second mid-term report as well. This interim report on the follow-up to accepted recommendations during the second cycle of UPR is presented by the Government of Azerbaijan on a voluntary basis as a sign of its commitment to the promotion and protection of all human rights in the country. We are of the view that the update on the national measures carried out in the field of human rights will contribute to the more effective participation of Azerbaijan in the third cycle of the UPR.

At the end, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for its valuable contribution and support to the UPR mechanism, which remains essential for the successful functioning of the mechanism as a whole.

Thank you