



Virtual event on Nowruz celebration 2021

**Remarks
by Ambassador Vaqif Sadiqov,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

Geneva, 19 March 2021

Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues and friends,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of Azerbaijan, it gives me enormous pleasure to welcome all of you and thank for joining us in celebrating Nowruz at this virtual event.

We are proud of the recognition of 21st March as the International Day of Nowruz by the UN General Assembly on the initiative of Azerbaijan and fellow Member States as well as its inclusion in the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

For millennia, people from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds across wider geography have marked Nowruz and the changing of the seasons. Indeed, the celebration of Nowruz has been passed on from one generation to the next and represents a unique tradition that transcends many cultural, ethnic and religious boundaries.

Nowruz is the most beloved holiday in Azerbaijan and deeply embraced in our history, art, traditions and customs. By widely celebrating Nowruz, people of Azerbaijan demonstrates its deep respect to its cultural and historical past as well as its strong affinity to national and spiritual values. Women play important role in disseminating traditional knowledge and skills to young generation.

Nowruz is not just a holiday to mark vernal equinox. It is also a joyful reminder of the common human values that unite us all. The messages and ideas that this ancient holiday advances correspond to today's universally recognized values such as peace, reconciliation, friendship, mutual understanding, respect for cultural diversity and tolerance. Nowruz fundamentally promotes harmony with nature, proper agricultural cultivation and poverty alleviation. All these values echo those that we together promote at the United Nations every day, particularly within the framework of Sustainable Development Agenda.

This year, the Nowruz celebration again takes on a very special meaning for all humankind given the profound and complex challenges the globe faces with one of the worst pandemics in recent history on the top. That's why the message of peace and collective interest in the common good represented by Nowruz is as important as ever.

Let's remain united and strengthen our new resolve to our path towards building a prosperous future for all and benefit, as much as we can, from a sight of hope that comes with springtime renewal of life.

I wish all of you a prosperous, happy and healthy Nowruz.

Novruz bayramınız mübarək!

I thank you.