



**UN Human Rights Council
46th Session
(22 February – 23 March 2021)**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur Special Rapporteur on minority issues
Second Right of Reply
delivered by Mr. Shahriyar Hajiyev
Third Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

15 March 2021

Thank you, Madame Vice-President,

We are exercising our second right of reply in response to the statement made by the delegation of Armenia.

Azerbaijan as a multi-ethnic and multi-confessional society carries out its national policy upholding traditional tolerance with respect to different national, ethnic, linguistic and religious groups.

Over many centuries' persons belonging to various minorities lived in Azerbaijan in peace and harmony, and this multicultural heritage has been preserved. All minority groups freely live, work and enjoy their minority rights in Azerbaijan, including Armenians, Avars, Georgians, Jews, Kurds, Lezgins, Russians and other ethnic groups.

The notorious statement of the ex-president of Armenia about the ethnic incompatibility of Armenians with Azerbaijanis clearly shows the position of this country. The state policy of hatred pursued by Armenia can be seen from the actions of this State. Apart from ethnic hatred, the religious and cultural sites belonging to Azerbaijanis in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan have been completely demolished by Armenia. A lot of evidence has been revealed after the liberation of the territories of Azerbaijan since 27 September 2020 which had been under the military occupation of Armenia for almost thirty years.

We also would like to comment on what the delegation of Armenia said. Armenia accuses our country for violating the minority rights and at the same time, states that Azerbaijan is a mono-ethnic and mono-religious country, that is absurd and surprising.

I thank you.

