



**UN Human Rights Council
Forty sixth Session**

**Agenda item 3
Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur
on the rights of persons with disabilities**

**Statement
delivered by Ms. Marziyya Vakilova-Mardaliyeva, First Secretary of the Permanent
Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International
Organizations in Geneva**

3 March 2021

Madam President,

We congratulate Mr. Gerard Quinn on his appointment as the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and wish him success in the fulfillment of his mandate.

We thank him for the presentation of the report and for the special focus on armed conflicts as key existential threat for persons with disabilities.

Landmines are among the most dangerous weapons in armed conflict. If not cleared, mines and explosive remnants of war continue to kill or cause disabilities long after the conflict has ended.

Armenia during almost three decades of occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan, in particular on the eve of the forced withdrawal of its military from Azerbaijan following the Trilateral Statement of 10 November 2020 on the end of military activities, signed by Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia, had deliberately planted land mines on these territories with a view to inflict much damage as possible.

The refusal by Armenia to hand over maps of minefields in blatant violation of its obligations under customary international humanitarian law, has already claimed the lives of 16 citizens of Azerbaijan, and led to serious injuries of 65 citizens since the end of hostilities.

Heavy contamination by Armenia of recently liberated Azerbaijani territories with landmines pose a serious threat to life and safety of Azerbaijani citizens and seriously impedes the realization of wide-ranging reconstruction works by the Government of Azerbaijan and the realization of inalienable right of around one million internally displaced persons to return to their homes in safety and dignity.

Mr. Special Rapporteur,

To avoid further loss of innocent lives and prevent devastating disabilities, Armenia should be urged to live up to its obligations under international law and to immediately hand over maps of minefields to Azerbaijan.

I thank you.