



**UN Human Rights Council  
46<sup>th</sup> Session**

**General Debate under Agenda Item 5**

**Statement  
delivered by Amb. Vaqif Sadıqov  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

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Madame President,

Special procedures mandate-holders represent the UN, and have to follow the UN Charter and be guided both by the spirit and letter of the official documents adopted by the UN organs. There should not be any misunderstanding about the “independence” of mandate holders: in discharging their duties, mandate-holders have to be guided by the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures and by the Manual of Operations.

In practice, however, we witness growing negative tendencies putting into question objectivity and even capacity of certain mandate holders to fulfil the important work tasked to them by the Human Rights Council.

On many occasions, mandate-holders send communications with factual mistakes and consisting of accusatory language, based on an unverified information and full of non-objective conclusions. On certain occasions, the so-called “communications” contain baseless and politically biased accusations contrary to the language of the UN documents, under the pretext that the author of a communication is an “independent” expert.

Some mandate holders have not yet developed a habit of responding to requests, letters and appeals of the UN Member States. In many cases mandate holders try to avoid contacts with UN Member States pretending that this would “harm” their independence. As a result, no action is taken by them in the situations which do require urgent actions.

On many cases, news releases and urgent appeals are made public before mandate holders receive a response from a country in question.

Mandate holders must exercise their functions through a professional and impartial assessment of facts, and not unsubstantiated allegations and rumours. Otherwise, we see open cases of abuse of the UN authority by respective mandate-holders. We are ready to provide facts about an incompetent and biased work of certain mandate-holders, but I would rather abstain from doing this in public.

What is then the added value of the work of such mandate-holders? We have presently 55 mandates, but do we really need all of them, if they are so “independent” of the UN Member States? These issues have to be raised during the forthcoming HRC review process.

We request the OHCHR Special Procedures Branch and the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures to increase supervision of the work of mandate-holders and align it with the requirements of the United Nations.

Thank you.