



**UN Human Rights Council  
Forty-seventh Session**

**Quadrennial panel discussion on promoting human rights through  
sport and the Olympic ideal**

**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**

**July 7, 2021**

Thank you, Madame Vice-president,

Sport plays a significant role in promoting human rights, education, health, and is a vehicle to foster development and the inclusion. Sport and the Olympic ideal are a means to advance peace through the interactions between people from different backgrounds and cultures, and to combat all forms of discrimination.

Sport plays a very important role in the Azerbaijani society, and supporting Sports and Olympic movement is one of the priorities of state policy in Azerbaijan. The Olympic Committee of Azerbaijan was established in 1992 and my country has been participating in the Olympic Games since 1996. Much attention is given to building and modernizing the sports infrastructure. Over 40 modern Olympic centers and the Baku Olympic Stadium were built in the country in recent years, as a result of which the number of young people engaging in sports is growing year-by-year.

Azerbaijan highlighting the importance of involving sport and the Olympics in achieving the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities, including their social integration, is carrying out various measures aimed at creation of a barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities in sports. The National Paralympic Committee of Azerbaijan established in 1996, develops professional sports for people with disabilities. We take pride in the performances of our Paralympic athletes, who have won nine gold, 18 silver and 11 bronze medals at the Paralympic Games since 1996. Azerbaijan is now developing athletes in 12 of the 19 Paralympic sports.

The Children's Paralympic Committee was established in Azerbaijan in 2013. The first such Committee in the world, it aims to promote physical education and sports as inclusive, to advance the integration of children with disabilities into society.

Recognizing the potential of hosting international sporting events in contributing to an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding, and educating the youth in this spirit, Azerbaijan in recent years has held major sporting events such as the first European Games and Islamic Solidarity Games. Amidst coronavirus challenges, my country also successfully hosted three group matches and one Quarter-final of Euro 2020, the Aerobic Gymnastics World Championship and Formula 1 this year.

We regret that Armenia has no good practices to present during these important discussions and dedicated its whole statement to its fabricated propaganda against Azerbaijan. It once again proves that the only prerequisite for Armenia to improve its prosperity and the well-being of its own people in order to have more positive agenda, is to develop good-neighbourly relations with its neighbors and benefit from the opportunities emerged in the region following the end of conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

I thank you.