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Press release

2017 is the Year of Islamic Solidarity in Azerbaijan

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On 10 January 2017, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev signed an Executive Order declaring 2017 the Year of Islamic Solidarity in Azerbaijan.

Located at the crossroads of East and West, Azerbaijan for centuries has been a bridge between cultures and civilizations and actively contributes to promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue based on mutual respect and understanding.

2016 has been declared the Year of Multiculturalism in Azerbaijan. Furthermore, a number of high-profile international events have been organized in Azerbaijan, such as the 7th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in 2016 and the annual Baku Humanitarian Forum. As an integral part of the Baku process, implemented under the leadership of Azerbaijan, which provides a platform for the exchange of knowledge on interreligious and intercultural dialogue, the 4th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 4-6 May 2017.

Azerbaijan's role as a natural bridge between cultures and civilizations has also manifested in hosting the first European Games in 2015, the Fourth Islamic Solidarity Games on 12-22 May 2017, as well as in organizing other important international cultural and sports events, such as the Eurovision Song Contest in 2012, the Formula 1 Grand Prix of Europe and the 42nd Chess Olympiad in 2016.

Intercultural and interreligious dialogue plays an important role in promoting peace and security and addressing conflicts, especially those having a cultural dimension.

It is of profound concern that the deliberate attacks on historical and cultural heritage during conflicts often become an integral part of a policy aimed at eliminating diversity and concealing or destroying cultural, historical or scientific evidence. Strengthened cooperation among States and more resolute and targeted measures on the part of the international community are required to put an end to such policies and bring the perpetrators to justice.

The Republic of Azerbaijan stands ready to continue its close cooperation with the States Members of the United Nations in addressing the issues of mutual interest and concern and promoting peace, stability and cooperation.
