



THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATION

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Statement by Mr. Tofiq Musayev
Member of the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
at the 51st plenary meeting of the 73rd session of the General Assembly
under agenda item 15 “Culture of peace”
12 December 2018

Mr. President,

The efforts of the international community in promoting a culture of peace have gained a strong impetus from the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, which proclaimed fundamental principles and commitments and defined a set of actions at the national, regional and global levels.

Azerbaijan supports the draft resolutions contained in documents A/73/L.43 (“Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace”), A/73/L.48 (“International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace”), A/73/L.52 (“Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance”) and A/73/L.55 (“Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace”) and looks forward to their adoption by consensus.

We thank the delegations of Bangladesh, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Uzbekistan, Pakistan and the Philippines, respectively, for their skillful efforts and leadership in facilitating the negotiations on the draft resolutions and for their strong commitment to the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue.

Mr. President,

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development acknowledges the natural and cultural diversity of the world and recognizes that all cultures and civilizations can contribute to, and are crucial enablers of, sustainable development.

The promotion of a culture of peace is important also in the context of addressing conflicts. Azerbaijan fully supports the Secretary-General’s efforts towards preventing conflicts, responding early and effectively to crisis situations, assisting Member States in their endeavors to sustain peace and build resilient and prosperous societies and making the United Nations more coherent, integrated, effective and efficient.

We note the leading role of UNESCO and the work of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in promoting intercultural dialogue, as well as commend the cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations in this field.

Azerbaijan attaches primary importance to the promotion of intercultural and interreligious dialogue at the national and international levels. In recent years, my country has hosted a number of result-oriented international events and put forward important initiatives to encourage dialogue and mutual understanding.

Among such initiatives is the Baku Process, successfully implemented under the leadership of Azerbaijan, which provides a large-scale platform for the exchange of knowledge on interreligious and intercultural dialogue. In his report on the topic submitted at the 72nd session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General specifically mentioned the important role of the Baku Process in advocating for dialogue among cultures (A/72/488, para. 40).

This year the Baku Process marks its 10th anniversary, and the high-level 4th Humanitarian Forum was held within this framework earlier this year in Baku, with participation of governments, international organizations, scholars, young people and civil society.

An integral part of the Baku Process is the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, organized biennially by Azerbaijan in cooperation with several international organizations. We welcome the reference to the World Forum as a key global platform for promoting intercultural dialogue, made in General Assembly resolution 72/136, entitled “Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace”, and in draft resolution A/73/L.55 to be adopted later today.

In his report on the promotion of a culture of peace and interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace, submitted to the 73rd session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General noted also the contribution of the Government of Azerbaijan to the development by UNESCO of its e-platform aimed at serving as an international hub to facilitate networking among different stakeholders working in the field of intercultural dialogue (A/73/391, para. 16).

Continued support by the United Nations and the broader international community for successful initiatives on intercultural dialogue, the culture of peace and multiculturalism is essential for building peaceful and inclusive societies, overcoming stereotypes and misconceptions and implementing development frameworks and policies.

The Republic of Azerbaijan is keen to continue its efforts towards promoting mutual understanding, respect for diversity and enhanced cooperation to that end.

Thank you.