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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Yashar Aliyev
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations**

**at the special solemn meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in commemoration
of all victims of the Second World War**

1 December 2020

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to join the previous speakers in emphasizing the importance of this special solemn meeting of the General Assembly.

The Second World War brought untold sorrow to humankind. Its scope and the loss of human life and property were unprecedented. The horrors of the war, the sacrifices made and the victims should never be forgotten.

Today's meeting gives us an opportunity to pay tribute to those who fought for peace, freedom and human dignity, to commemorate the many millions of victims of the Second World War, and to remember its terrifying atrocities and destruction.

The war touched all continents and peoples, sparing no one from pain and suffering.

There is not a single family in Azerbaijan that was not affected one way or another by the Second World War. Even though the hostilities took place beyond the territory of Azerbaijan, our people underwent and overcame a severe ordeal and made their contribution to the victory.

Azerbaijan mobilized for the army more than 600,000 of its sons and daughters, half of whom sacrificed their lives. Many Azerbaijanis also fought as members of the resistance in France, Italy, Poland, the Netherlands and Yugoslavia.

The victory was achieved not only on the battlefield but also at home. In a very short time frame, Azerbaijan set up works for the production of ammunition and armaments and hosted industrial enterprises relocated from the war theatre.

The true heroism was the selfless service and dedication of the people of Azerbaijan, who worked day and night in oil production. During the Second World War, Baku, one of the major oil producers and suppliers, secured almost 80 per cent of all the oil extracted in the entire Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, 90 per cent of its naphtha and 96 per cent of its lubricants. Four out of five Soviet aircrafts, tanks and trucks used in the course of the Second World War ran on fuel produced in the Baku refineries from oil extracted in the Baku oil fields.

The lessons of the Second World War have remained relevant for shaping our contemporary world and for the future of international relations. The desire to save humanity from the scourge of war inspired countries to create a mechanism to maintain international peace and security — the United Nations, our Organization.

Successful establishment in the immediate post-war period of multinational judicial institutions for the purpose of prosecuting and punishing crimes having an international dimension and scope demonstrated how effective international justice could be when there is a political will to support it.

This commemoration must serve as an opportunity for us to reaffirm our commitment to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and unite our efforts in addressing the threats and challenges to international peace and security and strengthening the tools for ending impunity.

Thank you.