



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

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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Yashar Aliyev
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations
at the UN General Assembly Seventy-second session
High-level forum on the Culture of Peace**

5 September 2018

At the outset, I would like to thank the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, for having convened this high level forum on the culture of peace.

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.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development makes numerous references to peace in its Goals, sets ambitious objectives to achieving peaceful and inclusive societies and advocates for the equal participation of all in efforts aimed at building and sustaining peace. The Agenda 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.

Azerbaijan attaches primary importance to the promotion of intercultural and interreligious dialogue at the national and international levels. My country's role as a natural bridge between cultures and civilizations has manifested in hosting a number of result-oriented international events and putting 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 most recent report on the promotion of a culture of peace and interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace, the Secretary-General specifically mentioned the important role of the Baku Process in advocating for dialogue among cultures.

An integral part of the Baku Process is the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, organized biennially by Azerbaijan in cooperation with the UNESCO, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the World Tourism Organization, the Council of Europe and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

In its resolution 72/136, entitled “Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace”, the General Assembly referred to the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue as a key global platform for promoting intercultural dialogue.

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

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 and respect for diversity and looks forward to enhanced cooperation to that end.

Thank you.