



**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

633 Third Avenue, Suite 3210, New York, NY, 10017
Tel: (212) 371-2559, 371-2832 (ext. 101); Fax: (212) 371-2784, (646) 738-6143

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

**at the Security Council open debate on the theme “Maintaining international peace and
security: exclusion, inequality and conflict”**

9 November 2021

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to commend Mexico for having convened this open debate and for submitting the concept note on the topic (S/2021/883).

Peoples throughout the world continue to suffer from wars and their devastating consequences. The COVID-19 pandemic and the hazards of climate change aggravate and exacerbate the challenging security environment.

Violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, the global rise in hate speech, incitement to hostility and violence and the spread of various racist extremist groups and movements based on ideologies that seek to promote racial superiority have an undermining effect in the eruption, resurgence, protraction or expansion of conflicts as well as in post-conflict situations.

In some well-known instances, at the core of dissension and enmity are policies and practices based on mono-ethnicity, exclusion and discrimination.

Furthermore, as the concept note observes, infringements of the rule of law, coupled with the inability of fragile States to provide their populations with basic services, create a perverse circle of exclusion, inequality and conflict.

It is important to work on addressing all the root causes of contention, taking into account that peace, security, development, human rights and the rule of law are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

The outcome document containing the 2030 Agenda stated, inter alia, that there could be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. It further reaffirmed a commitment to international law, the need to respect the territorial

integrity and political independence of States and full permanent sovereignty of States over their wealth, natural resources and economic activity.

Human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal and respect for these rights must be accorded on an equal and non-discriminatory basis. The rule of law and equal protection under the law for all without discrimination are at the core of the international human rights protection system.

Thus, the international human rights treaties are explicit in stating that nothing in these instruments may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights or freedoms recognized therein. To put it simply, no right can be exercised at the expense of the violation of the rights of others.

It is necessary to insist at all levels that the recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.

As to humanitarian relief actions by States and international organizations, it is well-established and generally accepted that such actions should be exclusively humanitarian in nature, cannot be misused for political purposes and should be carried out in conformity with the principles of neutrality, impartiality and consent of the affected country, while fully respecting the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. However, in some instances, including our region of South Caucasus, on the one hand, we hear statements about adherence to the “people-centered approach” and, on the other hand, observe groundless political speculations and claims that delay or hinder assistance efforts.

Furthermore, it is important that, acting to break the cycle of exclusion, inequality and conflict and promote inclusive strategies, the Security Council and other organs, bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations strictly comply with their respective mandates. Close cooperation and coordination among them is critical to enable the United Nations to effectively address the existing, new and emerging threats and challenges.

Providing support to States affected by conflict and engaged in post-conflict peacebuilding, reconstruction and rehabilitation must be a commitment of the entire United Nations system.

Coherent global responses and common efforts, consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, are the most effective ways to achieve the goals of peace, inclusive sustainable development and human rights for all.

Thank you.