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

**at the plenary segment of the High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace on the theme  
“Transformative Role of the Culture of Peace: Promoting Resilience and Inclusion  
in Post-COVID Recovery”**

*7 September 2021*

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank the President of the 75<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir, for convening this High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace, pursuant to Assembly’s resolution 75/25 of 9 December 2020.

The very fact of the adoption by the General Assembly of multiple resolutions under the agenda item “Culture of peace”, with the overwhelming support of Member States, attests to the importance attached by the international community to the topic. The annual resolutions entitled “Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace” and “Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace” continue to serve as universal standard-setting and guidance in this area of activities and cooperation.

This year’s high-level forum is taking place in a time when, more than ever before, global solidarity and strengthened cooperation are needed to counter COVID-19, recover from the pandemic, rebuild sustainability and achieve people-centred outcomes in all countries.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Azerbaijan has been on the forefront of the efforts to mobilize global action against it. On the initiative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, the following decisive steps have been taken to enhance international solidarity, promote multilateralism and raise support and resources to that end.

- On 10 April 2020, the Extraordinary Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States on the theme “Solidarity and Cooperation in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic” was held via videoconference. The Summit has become one of the first high-level meetings calling for expanded cooperation and urgent joint measures to prevent and eliminate the pandemic.

- On 4 May 2020, the Online Summit-level Meeting of the Contact Group of the Non-Aligned Movement, under the theme “United against the COVID-19 pandemic”, was convened with a view to assessing the impacts of the disease and identifying needs and requirements for possible remedies and action-oriented follow-up measures.
- Further, the 31<sup>st</sup> special session of the General Assembly in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) was held on 3-4 December 2020. The high level of representation at the special session illustrated the commitment of all Member States to ending the pandemic. For the first time in history, the special session gathered all heads of agencies and partners of the entire United Nations system for the most comprehensive analysis of a joint response to the pandemic to date.
- Addressing the "vaccine nationalism", which seriously undermines the efforts to end the pandemic globally, on 5 March 2021, the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement adopted a Communique on affordable, timely, equitable, and universal access by all countries to COVID-19 vaccines. As a follow-up, on 23 March 2021, the Human Rights Council unanimously adopted resolution 46/14 on the matter, inter alia, calling upon States and other relevant stakeholders to take appropriate measures to guarantee fair, transparent, equitable, efficient, universal and timely access to COVID-19 vaccines.

Azerbaijan stands for strengthened efforts within the United Nations and beyond towards a resilient recovery, including by overturning the inequity in global access to COVID-19 vaccines.

Mr. President,

Intercultural and interreligious dialogue has diverse forms and plays an important role in advancing sustainable development, promoting cultural diversity and tackling the root causes of violence and conflict. Such dialogue is equally important within the broader objectives of sustaining peace, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconciliation, reconstruction and reintegration, as well as for confronting discrimination and the exponential spread and proliferation of hate speech and mobilizing the world against hatred of all kinds.

Azerbaijan pays particular attention to encouraging intercultural and interreligious dialogue at the national and international levels. We will continue our efforts towards promoting mutual understanding and respect for diversity, including within the Baku Process, which has proved itself as one of the leading international platforms in this area of cooperation. The United Nations continued support for such successful initiatives on the culture of peace and multiculturalism is essential in the context of building relationships, overcoming stereotypes, and misconceptions and implementing development frameworks and policies.

Thank you.