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**Statement by Mr. Tofiq F. Musayev
Deputy Permanent Representative and Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission
of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations**

**at the plenary meeting of the General Assembly on agenda item 127 (j)
in explanation of vote after the vote on draft resolution A/77/L.97, entitled "Cooperation
between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie"**

25 August 2023

Mr. President,

At the outset, we would like to thank the delegation of Tunisia for their efforts and able leadership in facilitating the negotiations on draft resolution A/77/L.97. The delegation of Azerbaijan actively participated in the negotiation process.

Azerbaijan recognizes that cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations is essential to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

The foundational documents of the International Organization of la Francophonie commit its Member States, *inter alia*, to respect the sovereignty of States, observe the strictest neutrality and promote dialogue among cultures and civilizations. Furthermore, the resolution just adopted refers to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and highlights the importance of developing friendly relations among nations in accordance with international law.

However, since the adoption of the last resolution on the same topic in 2021, two members of the International Organization of la Francophonie have continued to abuse this multilateral format by pushing through false narratives, spreading disinformation, sowing dissension and interfering in the internal affairs of non-member States, sometimes even in breach of the decision-making procedures and in apparent disregard of the positions of other members of the Organization.

We consider the attempts to promote xenophobic anti-Azerbaijan positions at the summits of la Francophonie as pursuing the goal to destabilize the situation in our region and encroach on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of my country, in contravention of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, as well as the principles and objectives at the heart of la Francophonie itself.

Azerbaijan strongly condemns and categorically rejects such destructive, inflammatory, and provocative policies and actions and disassociates from operative paragraphs 2, 41 and 52 of the resolution, which mention certain documents of the Organization that are irrelevant for the United Nations.

We request that this statement be included in the official records of the meeting.

Thank you.