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UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
SIXTEENTH SESSION
COUNTRY UNDER REVIEW: AZERBAIJAN
Statement by Turkey

Yapısal Alp
Première
Conseillère

Thank you Mr. President,

We warmly welcome the distinguished delegation of Azerbaijan and thank them for their substantive presentation as well as their comprehensive national report.

We note with satisfaction that Azerbaijan has taken measures to address issues that have been raised during the first review. We consider this to be a testimony to Azerbaijan's constructive attitude and welcome the determination to improve their institutional and legislative framework. The national plans and programmes that have been adopted to this end as well as Azerbaijan's accession to relevant international treaties are steps in the right direction that are worthy of consideration.

Steps taken to fight corruption are particularly critical. We applaud the establishment of the State Agency for Public Services and Social Innovations (ASAN), which has already started to receive praise from the public at large. We **recommend** Azerbaijan to continue its ongoing efforts to fight corruption and to enhance the transparent and efficient nature of ASAN.

Naturally, while examining Azerbaijan, we need to be reminded of the context. 20 % of Azerbaijani territory is under occupation and Azerbaijan is obliged to provide support to a significant number of IDPs and refugees. We commend all of the efforts that are made to this end and fully recognize the challenge at hand. No doubt, full restoration of the rights and needs of IDPs and refugees can only be possible when they are able to go back to their homes and lands of origin. Therefore, this also entails an important responsibility for the international community. We **recommend** Azerbaijan to pursue its substantial efforts to alleviate the suffering and to improve the living conditions of IDPs and refugees.

Thank you Mr. President