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**PERMANENT MISSION OF AZERBAIJAN**

**19th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group**

**Review of Norway, Geneva, 28 April 2014**

Mr. President,

Azerbaijan thanks the delegation of Norway for the presentation of the national report. We note the ongoing efforts of Norway for promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

At the same time, we would like to express concern over a number of human rights problems as referred to in relevant reports of the UN treaty bodies, special procedures and other stakeholders. We look forward to the implementation of their recommendations, which will serve to improve the human rights situation in Norway.

We took note the concerns expressed by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) regarding discrimination against (im)migrants, persons from immigrant backgrounds, asylum seekers and refugees in accessing public services, housing, the labour market and health. We **recommend** Norway to take immediate measures to address that discrimination and to intensify its efforts, including through the adoption of a new action plan, to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination and to promote equality. We further **recommend** Norway to consider the ratification of International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Family.

We continue to note the concerns of CAT and HR Committee on the allegations of cases of ill-treatment, harassment, incitement to violence and hate speech towards minorities and other vulnerable groups, including the persistence of hate speech against the Sami people, and xenophobic, anti-Semitic and Islamophobic statements. We **recommend** Norway to raise awareness and promote tolerance and diversity in society and toensure that violent acts, discrimination and hate speech are systematically investigated and the alleged perpetrators prosecuted.

Last but not least, domestic violence continues to be a serious social problem in Norway. We **recommend** that Norway strengthen efforts to combat and prevent domestic violence, including various forms of violence and sexual abuse against children.

Thank you.