

Remarks by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan

20th session of the WG on UPR

UPR of Kazakhstan

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67

Mr. President,

Azerbaijan warmly welcomes the brotherly Delegation of Kazakhstan and thanks the esteemed Delegation for the presentation of its valuable national report. The national report of Kazakhstan clearly indicates the achievements of the country in the field of promotion and protection of human rights during the last four years. It is noteworthy to mention that Kazakhstan has implemented most of the recommendations made during the 1st cycle of UPR.

Azerbaijan positively notes that since its 1st UPR the Government of Kazakhstan strengthened normative legal framework for the promotion and protection of human rights. In this regard, we welcome the adoption of a National Plan to combat human trafficking, the State Programme for further modernization of the law enforcement system, as well as the ratification of the ILO Convention on Workers with Family Responsibilities and the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption.

Azerbaijan commends the Government of Kazakhstan for its active cooperation with human rights mechanisms, including special procedures, treaty bodies and the UPR. In this regard, we **recommend** Kazakhstan to continue active cooperation with human rights mechanisms.

Azerbaijan also highly appreciates Kazakhstan for carrying out many activities to serve a better understanding between all peoples and religions. In this regard, it should be highlighted that during his visit to Kazakhstan the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief Mr. Heiner Bielefeldt stated that religious and ethnic pluralism is a distinctive feature of Kazakh society.

Azerbaijan **recommends** the Government of Kazakhstan to continue further improvement of the protection and promotion of human rights in the country.

Finally, the Delegation of Azerbaijan would like to assure once again the Delegation of Kazakhstan of its full support and cooperation.

Thank you for attention.