**UPR 44**

**(Geneva, 06.11-17.11.2023)**

**Review of Azerbaijan**

**Statement by Greece**

Thank you Mr. President,

Greece welcomes the delegation of Azerbaijan. We express concern about the effect that newly adopted legislation may have on democratic pluralism and civil society in the country.

Greece recommends that Azerbaijan:

1. Refrain from the arbitrary detention of journalists and independently investigate all instances of attacks, threats and harassment against journalists, political activists and human rights defenders, and bring those responsible to justice;
2. Ensure the implementation of the right of the Armenian refugees to return to Nagorno-Karabakh safely and in dignity, ensure the protection of their property and housing rights and prevent and punish acts of vandalism and desecration affecting Armenian cultural heritage;
3. Prevent the incitement to racial hatred and discrimination, including by its officials and public institutions, targeted at persons of Armenian national or ethnic origin;
4. Thoroughly and impartially investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment against prisoners and detainees;

Thank you