 **Azərbaycan Respublikasının Permanent Mission**

**Cenevrədəki BMT Bölməsi of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

**və digər beynəlxalq təşkilatlar yanında to the UN Office and other**

**Daimi Nümayəndəliyi International Organizations in Geneva \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**46th session of the UPR Working Group**

**UPR of Slovakia**

**Statement by Azerbaijan**

*Geneva, 6 May 2024*

Madam Vice-President,

We commend the positive steps taken by Slovakia in the field of human rights and the adoption of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Ethnic Groups 2021–2025. However, we are still concerned about the prevalence of racial discrimination and phenomena of hate crime and hate speech against minorities.

Azerbaijan offers the following recommendations to Slovakia:

1. intensify efforts to combat discrimination against persons belonging to ethnic, national and religious minorities, including promoting tolerance and awareness in the society.
2. take appropriate measures to prevent racist attacks and to combat hate rhetoric and ensure that all racially motivated crimes, incidents of hate speech, as well as allegations and complaints of excessive use of force by police officers, including torture and ill-treatment are properly investigated.
3. consider ratifying those international human rights treaties that it has not yet ratified, in particular treaties with provisions that had direct relevance to communities that might be subjected to racial discrimination.

We wish Slovakia a successful review.

Thank you, Madam Vice-President.