**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (35th SESSION)**

**REVIEW OF ARMENIA**

**INTERVENTION BY TURKEY**

**(23 January 2020)**

Madame President,

Turkey is particularly concerned with the exploitation and trafficking of children in Armenia.

The negative humanitarian consequences of the occupation of Azerbaijan’s Nagorno-Karabakh region and its surrounding provinces by Armenian forces continue. Hundreds of thousands of IDPs constitute one of the major human rights problems in the region. This problem awaits remedy which can only be achieved when Azerbaijan’s territorial integrity is re-established in line with international law.

Glorification of violence and terrorism by commemorating known terrorists who murdered statesman and diplomats, organizing state funerals for such killers, thereby fostering hate speech in Armenia is in contrast to the human rights achievements it is trying to present here.

Within this context, Turkey recommends Armenia to:

1) Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse and the Istanbul Convention.

2) Uphold its obligations under international law and allow return of the Azerbaijani internally displaced persons to their places of origin in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

3) Ensure respect for the rights of Azerbaijani refugees and IDPs expelled from Armenia and the occupied territories of Azerbaijan to return to their places of origin in safety and dignity, and provide necessary compensation for violations of their rights.

Thank you.