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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Note verbale dated 6 July 2022 from the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva submits herewith the joint appeal of participants of the conference entitled “Advancing post-conflict humanitarian agenda: Sustainable development through revitalization of cultural environment”, held on 19 and 20 May 2022 in Shusha, Azerbaijan (see annex).

The Permanent Mission kindly requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to circulate the present note verbale and the annex thereto* as a document of the Human Rights Council under agenda item 4.

* Reproduced as received, in the language of submission only.



Annex to the note verbale dated 6 July 2022 from the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

“Advancing Post-Conflict Humanitarian Agenda: Sustainable development through revitalization of cultural environment” 19-20 May 2022, Shusha, Azerbaijan

Joint appeal

1. We, the participants of the international conference entitled “Advancing Post-Conflict Humanitarian Agenda: Sustainable development through revitalization of cultural environment” organized in Shusha – cultural capital of Azerbaijan and the cultural capital of the Turkic World for the year 2023, reaffirm the importance of cultural revival and protection of cultural environment in ensuring sustainable development, particularly in post-conflict situations;
2. We welcome the initiative of Azerbaijan to host this important international conference in Shusha. The Government of Azerbaijan has set comprehensive and ambitious humanitarian agenda offering renewed possibilities for the long-term stability and sustainable development for the entire region. We commend consistent post-conflict humanitarian efforts by the Government of Azerbaijan aimed at reviving and restoring conflict-affected cultural, religious and natural heritage of Azerbaijan, rebuilding infrastructure;
3. The culture is recognized as a universal tool in building bridges and establishing dialogue and cooperation in the aftermath of conflicts. We emphasize the positive role of intercultural dialogue in contributing to sustainable peace. We believe that international community can support initiatives, such as the “Peace4Culture” Global Call, launched by the Government of Azerbaijan, in partnership with the UN Alliance of Civilizations and ICESCO, which seeks to explore how philosophy of culture can contribute to strengthening peace.
4. The right of access to and enjoyment of cultural heritage constitutes an integral element of overall cultural rights of people. We emphasize everyone’s right to freely participate in the cultural life of the community, as stipulated in the Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Preservation of cultural heritage is of great importance for all peoples of the world and any damage to cultural property, irrespective of the people it belongs to, is a damage to the cultural heritage of all humanity, as reflected in the 1954 Hague Convention for the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict. We therefore strongly condemn targeting cultural and religious sites and monuments and their destruction during the armed conflicts, especially in situation of occupation, regardless of their origin;
5. We acknowledge the need for a better environmental care and urban planning in order to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goal 11. In this context, it is worth noting the significant reconstruction of the destructed urban infrastructure carried out by the Government of Azerbaijan in the liberated territories, which is also sensitive to protection of rich and diverse ecosystems. We also underline the importance of elimination of consequences of environmental pollution, in line with relevant international documents, including Helsinki Convention of UNECE on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes;
6. Whilst strongly advocating for the peaceful relations among nations, highlighting the importance of protection of cultural, religious and natural heritage and reaffirming the commitment to respective goals of the UN Agenda 2030, We, the participants of Shusha conference, appeal to the international community, to extend its unequivocal and firm support to humanitarian initiatives of the Government of Azerbaijan in post-conflict period, aimed at restoring destructed historical monuments and infrastructures, reviving culture and heritage.

In this context, we encourage the international community to assist in confidence building measures, efforts to revitalize cultural, religious and natural heritage and promote successful models of post-conflict reconciliation.
