**UN Human Rights Council**

**Fourth intersessional meeting for dialogue and cooperation on human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

**18 January 2022**

**Statement by Azerbaijan on behalf of the core group for the resolution on human rights and implementation of the 2030 agenda**

**(Azerbaijan, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Luxembourg, Portugal, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Thailand and Uruguay)**

I am pleased to make this statement on behalf of Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Luxembourg, Portugal, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Uruguay and my own country Azerbaijan, all members of the core group for the resolution on human rights and the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you to the keynote speaker and the panellists. They have left no doubt that a more integrated approach to the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has never been more important than now. This requires a level of political will that we have not been able to muster thus far, not individually and not collectively.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to perpetuate and exacerbate vulnerabilities, existing inequalities and injustice, reversing hard-won development gains and hampering progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, particularly in developing countries. Women and girls are among the hardest hit. Too often, responses have left the most marginalised and vulnerable persons behind. Too rarely have those, that are already furthest behind, been reached first.

In this regard, the global initiatives promoting global solidarity in response to the pandemic, including the efforts of countries that have supplied COVID-19 vaccines, and the thirty-first special session of the General Assembly, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, held on 3 and 4 December 2020, should be stressed.

The universal human rights of each individual and the human rights obligations of states must be at the heart of all efforts to build back better. Importantly, this was recognised by the UN Secretary General in the report “Our Common Agenda” with its call for a “renewed social contract anchored in human rights”.

Efforts towards such a renewed social contract should focus on the many links between states’ human rights obligations and the SDGs. And they should advance gender equality while strengthening partnerships and building new ones. Such efforts can be further complemented by the enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building support, based on consultation with and with the consent of the States concerned. This core group is committed to continue building the space for discussions on how we can make our governments deliver for everyone, both now and for future generations.

That is key for accelerated progress towards development for everyone that is sustainable and resilient, and grounded in human rights.

Thank you.