

Thank you, Mr Chairperson,

Azerbaijan is pleased to be among the members of the Group of Friends on Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda initiating the Second Intersessional Meeting. We would like to express our appreciation for the organization of today's meeting with qualified and esteemed speakers.

Ensuring human rights and fundamental freedoms stands as the highest priority objective of the state and constant measures are implemented by the Government of Azerbaijan in this end.

Taking into consideration the necessity of a holistic approach to be applied to the implementation of SDGs, Azerbaijan was one of the first countries establishing the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development functioning under the leadership of the Deputy Prime Minister. A core function of the Coordination Council is to ensure inclusive stakeholder participation and translate SDG Agenda into a national context by aligning national plans and strategies with the SDGs.

Azerbaijan has submitted its second Voluntary National Review in 2019 that is an overview of the efforts made with respect to policy pursued for the achievement of SDGs given the commitment to make progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

I thank you.