**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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **237 Route des Fayards, CH-1290 Versoix, Switzerland Tel: +41 (22) 9011815 Fax: +41 (22) 9011844 E-mail: geneva@mission.mfa.gov.az Web: www.geneva.mfa.gov.az**

**UN OHCHR**

**Multi-stakeholder meeting on the human rights of older persons**

**Session 3: Strengthening coordinated actions for the protection of the human rights of older persons**

**Statement**

**delivered by Ms. Narmin Huseynova,**

**Third Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

**to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

**Geneva, 30 August 2022**

Thank you Madam Chairperson,

We wish to thank the panellists for their valuable insights and the opportunity for interactive dialogue.

We are reminded here that population aging remains the dominant demographic phenomenon. Demographic trends in Azerbaijan are similarly signalling a rapid growth of the older population.

Government policy of ensuring dignified aging is built upon improving legislation, providing integrated social services, employment, lifelong learning and other active aging opportunities for the elderly.

My country favors long-term, successful and effective strategic partnership of government agencies, international organizations, the private sector and civil society to protect the human rights of older persons.

A highly coordinated COVID-19 response focused specifically on vulnerable groups, introducing a swift nationwide vaccination program, complemented by socio-economic support.

Following the war with Armenia in 2020 and after liberating its territories from occupation, my Government’s top priority now is to return the displaced population back to their places of origin. Older persons make up more than 10 percent of the 1 million IDPs in Azerbaijan.

The occupation lasted thirty years, and some elders did not live to see the return to their former homes. For the remaining population to return in safety and dignity, these lands must be cleared of mines and entire cities are to be rebuilt. A high quality of life, economic activity and decent employment is envisioned.

We would therefore appreciate to hear the pannelists’ views on protecting the rights of older persons in post conflict situations, pertaining specifically to returning populations.

Thank you.