



**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Yashar Aliyev  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations  
at the first regular session of the Executive Board of UNICEF**

*11 February 2021*

Madam President,

Distinguished Members of the Executive Board,

I would like to first thank UNICEF Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia and the Special Coordinator for the Refugee and Migrant Response in Europe Ms. Afshan Khan and her team, Office of UNICEF in Baku and colleagues here in New York for their assistance and cooperation in preparing the CPD for Azerbaijan.

UNICEF has been a crucial partner for my country in providing quality healthcare, education and social services, all the while protecting and supporting vulnerable children, in particular children affected by war and children with disabilities.

Azerbaijan is committed to providing an environment in which all children can flourish and reach their full potential, and their rights are respected.

State programs have been adopted to address child and maternal health, as well as identification and treatment of disabilities. The State Programme on Development of Inclusive Education for 2018-2024 was adopted with the aim to put into practice the principles of UNCRC and UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Within the framework of this programme, joint projects have been implemented with international organizations, including with UNICEF, which has worked to expand inclusive quality education for children with disabilities.

Madam President,

Last September, my country was subjected to yet another act of aggression. As a result of direct and indiscriminate attacks on the densely populated civilian areas, in particular the cities of Ganja and Tartar, 100 civilians were killed, including 12 children, 416 wounded, 84,000 people were

forced to leave their homes and hundreds of civilian objects were either destroyed or severely damaged.

Schools and kindergardens were not spared. 54 educational institutions were destroyed. Classes had to be cancelled in 1221 schools affecting 340,000 school-age children.

Madam President,

Azerbaijan is now embarking on the largest and the most comprehensive reconstruction and rehabilitation project in its history following the liberation of its internationally recognized territories from the foreign occupation, the primary focus of which is to create proper conditions for the safe and dignified return of hundreds of thousands internally displaced persons to their native lands. We hope that UNICEF will support Government's efforts in this regard.

We appreciate the work that UNICEF has carried out in Azerbaijan for children affected by conflict and look forward to continuing cooperation in the framework of the new CPD.

Thank you.