



# Azerbaijan

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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*Press Release*

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## Statement

by H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
at the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the 60<sup>th</sup> session  
of the United Nations General Assembly  
16 September 2005, New York

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today is a truly significant moment in the history of multilateralism. We have gathered here to reaffirm our faith in this House and unyielding commitment to its Charter. We have pledged to contribute to a shared vision of global solidarity and collective security with a strong United Nations at its core.

We have recognized the valuable contribution of major United Nations Conferences and Summits in mobilizing the efforts of the Member States for achieving the United Nations Development agenda. Azerbaijan considers the development as a central goal and, to this end, reiterates its commitment to fully implement the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We believe that more active involvement of all segments of society, particularly of the youth, is crucial in the process of implementation of the national development agendas and the achievement of MDGs.

In the Outcome Document we have acknowledged that Member States have a shared responsibility for each other's security, since no state can stand alone against transnational threats. Manifestations of international terrorism, extremism, aggressive separatism and occupation of territories of Member States are not the problems of an affected state alone. Therefore, prompt response and collective remedial actions and protection of millions of civilians, in particular women and children who are the major victims of armed conflicts and negligence, are the imperatives in order to effectively provide security for all States and peoples and to realize the goals envisaged in the Outcome Document. The notorious practice of occupation by one UN member state of the territory of another member state as well as carrying out ethnic cleansing must be strongly condemned and brought to an end.

This meeting is a landmark event in the ongoing discussions on reform of the United Nations. Azerbaijan like many other states is concerned about the decline in the General Assembly's prestige and its diminishing profile in the Organization's activities. The Assembly must take bold measures to further strengthen its role and authority as set out in the Charter of the United Nations, in this context discuss issues pertaining to the maintenance of international peace and security, in particular through consideration of agenda items of special political importance and urgency. Review of its agenda and improvement of working methods are another ways to enhance General Assembly's role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations. We welcome in this regard adoption of the resolution A/RES/59/313 entitled "A strengthened and revitalized General Assembly".

Azerbaijan strongly believes that the reform of the Security Council should not be limited to its enlargement. It is of vital importance to ensure a greater transparency in the decision-making process, accountability in performance and access and better participation of non-member states in the work of the Council. Given the non-implementation of a number of UN resolutions, in particular related to regional conflicts, we attach great importance to the establishment of a mechanism which would provide monitoring and implementation of these resolutions.

Azerbaijan supports strengthening the role of the United Nations in global economic governance and its capacities to promote development. Furthermore we recognize the increasing role of the ECOSOC in addressing economic and social dimensions of armed conflicts, including protracted ones, through, *inter alia*, the proposed Peacebuilding Commission.

We also believe that in order to effectively meet present challenges, the UN human rights machinery could be improved with due regard being paid to the principles of sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs of Member States and in a way conducive to their efforts on the protection and promotion of human rights.

The principle of indivisibility of security requires global response to current threats and challenges which in its turn entails substantial cooperation on a regional level. Azerbaijan makes valuable contribution to regional security through the cooperation in drug interdiction operations, counter-proliferation of WMD's, illegal migration and other types of criminal activities, as well as participating in peacekeeping missions in the hot spots. From the very beginning we have actively been participating in the global fight against terrorism – just yesterday I put my signature on the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Azerbaijan also promotes global energy security through developing Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline and Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline, as well as realization of Baku-Tbilisi-Akhalkalaki-Kars railroad project

In conclusion, I would like to express confidence that this High Level Plenary Meeting so masterly organized, will become striking touchstone towards implementation of the goals and tasks before of the United Nations.

Thank you.