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## A Z E R B A I J A N

HRC Fourth special session  
Geneva, 12 December 2006  
Intervention by Ambassador Elchin Amirbayov

Thank you, Mr. President,

Let me start by aligning myself with the statement made by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC.

Azerbaijan welcomes this opportunity to address the situation of human rights in the Darfur region of Sudan. We are even more glad to do so given the fact that for the first time a special session of the Human Rights Council is convened as a joint cross-regional endeavour, involving East and West, North and South. The fact that 34 member states of the Council have requested the convocation of this session presents a unique opportunity for this newly created body to display the much expected sense of collegiality and establish the atmosphere of mutual confidence crucial for the achievement of effective and far-reaching outcome that would be able not only to strengthen the credibility of the Human Rights Council but also to have a tangible positive effect on the developments in Darfur. It is therefore compelling that this discussion while providing a good opportunity to exchange views on the situation should not attempt to prejudge the outcome of the mission that we all agree should be sent to the region in order to assess the situation and ascertain real facts on the ground. Neither should the outcome document of today's deliberations contain any language that may be construed as prescribing the findings of the mission in advance or casting doubt to the objectivity of the mission.

Trying to avoid the repetition of the points made in previous interventions, and as someone who has recently visited the country, I would like to commend the Sudanese Government for its strong commitment to cooperate with the international community, including various UN bodies and this Council, as well as their initiative to reach out to the Council Members and allow them to get the first-hand information by visiting the country.

Sudanese Government has exerted dedicated efforts to implement the Darfur Peace Agreement of 5 May 2006, while other parties have declined from joining it and continue to engage in rebellion activities resulting in numerous casualties and loss of human life.

Given the complexity and the tragic nature of the conflict one should refrain from depicting the situation in black and white terms. While no one tries to deny the gravity of situation of human rights resulting from the unabated violence on the ground, we need to be comprehensive and consistent in assessing the human rights situation and concentrate at the opportunities rather than the failures of the ongoing efforts aimed at improving this situation. Sudan should be further helped to stabilize the situation in the country. *In the meantime, violations of human rights by all parties must stop.*

Realizing the harsh reality on the ground the Government is heavily engaged through the use of all possible avenues in trying to bridge existing differences with the outstanding rebel factions, it is engaged in dialog through various mediators with so-called non-signatory factions to broaden the base of the DPA, as well as to put an end to violence in all existing pockets of rebellion. Important role, under the circumstances, in stabilizing the situation belongs to strengthened AU force that needs to be brought in conformity with the outstanding serious tasks that it needs to cope with. In this context recent developments and meetings that amount to providing of the strong financial and logistical support by the UN to the AU force are encouraging.

Mr. President,

We need to be genuine in our approach not only in merely addressing and exchange views on the evolving situation in Sudan but to be useful in redressing it and assisting the legitimate Government of Sudan to address the serious challenges it faces and thus really contribute to the amelioration of the whole picture on the ground.

Finally, a few words on the mission. It is our sincere belief that in order for the mission to succeed it should be composed of technical expertise and political components, in order to meet the requirements of objectivity and credibility for all. Objectivity cannot be selective, still the situation here today is such that various groups have their views and perceptions of objectivity and credibility. Therefore, the compromise that was meant to merge the elements of the two drafts before us and to allow to address the issue of conflicting information on practically all aspects of human rights situation in Darfur through objective means should be once again looked upon, if we all genuinely want a consensus and compromise and if we are serious about turning away from the notorious practice of the past and going for a fresh start.