

**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly
Geneva, Switzerland | 19–27 May 2025
General discussion – agenda item 3**

**Honorable President,
Distinguished Delegates,**

As in many countries around the world, the health and well-being of citizens is one of the main priorities of the Government of Azerbaijan. However, today we would like to focus on international-level health-related issues.

Distinguished Colleagues,

Last year Azerbaijan took on a leadership role in addressing another global challenge: the climate change. The UN Climate Change Conference – COP29 was held in Baku in November 2024.

Climate change has profound implications for health, and for this reason, the intersection of climate change and health was at the center of the COP29 agenda. Azerbaijan also supported the initiative to establish the “Baku COP Presidencies Continuity Coalition for Climate and Health”.

Continuing the debate on peace and health relation, we would like to remind that for three decades, the territories of Azerbaijan remained under the occupation of Armenia, and as a result of Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan, our country was hosting about one million refugees and IDPs until we fully restored our territorial integrity in recent years. Currently, Azerbaijan is rebuilding its formerly occupied territories with the aim to restore the right of IDPs to return to their homeland, and we expect Armenia in the same manner to recognize and restore the right of more than 300 thousand ethnic Azerbaijani refugees to return to their homes in the territory of Armenia.

Finally, we would like to highlight that respect for territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs of sovereign States are fundamental principles enshrined in the Charter of the UN. We oppose growing trends of interference in States' internal affairs under different pretexts in various international platforms. In this regard, we stress that issues brought to the attention of the Assembly, including those related to China, must be approached in full conformity with these mentioned principles.

Thank you.