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**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan during the General exchange of views of the 2025 Substantive Session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission**

*New York, 8 April 2025*

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate the Republic of Paraguay on your election as Chair of this substantive session of the Disarmament Commission, as well as other members of the Bureau and wish you success in guiding this session.

In the same manner, we express our sincere appreciation to Pakistan for its able chairmanship during the previous tenure.

Azerbaijan remains committed to the principles of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. We reaffirm our support for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and stress the importance of its full and balanced implementation across its three pillars: disarmament, non-proliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Due to proliferation challenges and our geographic location, Azerbaijan attaches particular importance to the prevention of the use of its territory as a transit route for nuclear trafficking. In close cooperation with partners, we established a strong border control system for the prevention of smuggling and illicit trafficking of radioactive and nuclear materials.

As part of this endeavor, Azerbaijan is conducting environmental monitoring, including assessing the level of radioactive contamination in the framework of ongoing post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction works in its liberated territories. Furthermore, Azerbaijan is taking stringent measures to establish effective border control along these areas to ensure that these territories are no longer used for illegal purposes, including for illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials.

International cooperation has always been the centerpiece of our efforts in the field of nuclear security and safety. We recognize and commend the key role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in developing nuclear security regulations and standards. In pursuit of these efforts, we have built a successful cooperation with the Agency and work closely with it on various aspects of nuclear security.

Azerbaijan, as a party to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) notes that it is one of the most crucial instruments of strengthening the non-proliferation regime and limitation of nuclear armaments.

The threat posed by weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear, remains a matter of grave concern. We therefore emphasize the importance of reinforcing verification mechanisms and ensuring compliance with existing disarmament agreements.

Azerbaijan also underscores the need to prevent an arms race in outer space and supports efforts towards legally binding measures to ensure its peaceful use.

Mr. Chair,

Azerbaijan recognizes the rapid advancement of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), autonomous weapon systems, and cyber capabilities, and their implications for global security.

Azerbaijan also recognizes the transformative potential of emerging technologies across a wide range of sectors and continues to prioritize technological advancements for national and regional development, particularly in pursuit of lasting peace and stability.

In this context, Azerbaijan is actively exploring the application of emerging technologies, including AI capacity, in post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction, particularly using the technology in its humanitarian demining efforts. Specifically, AI-powered technologies accelerate demining operations by allowing precise mapping of minefields, helping us address one of the greatest humanitarian challenges in the region.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that when harnessed responsibly, emerging technologies can play a pivotal role in the promotion of global security, the prevention of conflicts, and risk reduction. As security concerns evolve, these technologies are increasingly playing a significant role in national self-defense as well. In this regard, we cannot overlook their role in upholding the legitimate self-defense interests and rights of States to safeguard themselves from a wide range of threats, enhance situational awareness, enable robust response, and provide real-time data for rapid decision-making.

We emphasize the need for a common understanding among Member States to ensure that these technologies are developed and used in compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law. We call for enhanced multilateral cooperation to prevent the misuse of emerging technologies and mitigate their security risks. As we move forward, we must also be acutely aware of the threats and risks that accompany these developments.

Azerbaijan remains steadfast in its commitment to the responsible and ethical advancement of emerging technologies, ensuring that these technologies align with the principles of international peace and security.

This must be developed through broad international cooperation, guaranteeing that emerging technologies is a force for good and not a tool for destabilization. This commitment is essential to prevent the misapplication of the emerging technologies. By fostering multilateral dialogue, we

can ensure that emerging technologies contribute to a more peaceful, secure, and prosperous world. Azerbaijan stands ready to actively contribute to this collective endeavor.

In conclusion, Azerbaijan reaffirms its dedication to multilateralism and the UN disarmament machinery as essential components of global peace and security. We call upon all Member States to demonstrate genuine political will in advancing disarmament efforts and fostering a safer world for future generations.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.