General Assembly 69th session: Agenda item 14:  
Culture of peace

Statement by Mr. Sahak Sargsyan, the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the UN

Md. President,

On behalf of my Delegation, I would like to commend your leadership in advancing the agenda of the UN General Assembly and thank you for the opportunity to share our views under this important agenda item.

Armenia recognizes the importance of resolution A/69/L.76 “United Nations Alliance of Civilizations” and appreciates the efforts of its main sponsors with a strong belief that respect and tolerance to other’s identity, ethnicity, cultural and religious heritage is amongst the important prerequisites of harmonious and peaceful co-existence.

As it is stipulated in the resolution, the scourges of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in all their forms and manifestations are deeply troubling. In this context, we are seriously concerned about the spread of this scourge in our immediate neighbourhood, where the official machinery of the state and the head of state are the actual instigators of hate speech and vilification of the other.

In reference to the location of the Seventh Global Forum, envisaged in 2016, we would like to reiterate our enduring concern about the persistent dissemination and incitement of hatred towards Armenia and the Armenian people, including at the highest level in Azerbaijan. Such environment of hatred and intolerance doesn’t bode well with the principles of the Alliance. It also raises significant concerns for the safety and security of the potential participants of Armenia at the Forum. It questions the ability of the host country to provide fair, secure and equal conditions for participation and to guarantee the integrity of the forum. We therefore urge the host country to provide solid guarantees for safe, secure and equal participation of Armenia at the Forum, as well as invite the attention of other members of the Alliance and its Secretariat to our concerns.

In conclusion, Armenia hopes that the Alliance would sustain a continued focus on its proclaimed positive message of diversity and harmony of civilizations.
I thank you.