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**UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-fifth Session
General debate on Item 3**

**Right of reply in response to the right of reply by Armenia
delivered by Mr. Yalchin Rafiyev, First secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of
Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

18 September 2017

Thank you Mr. Vice-president,

We would like to exercise right of reply in response to the statement made by the delegation of Armenia during the general debate on item 3. Since in that statement reference was made to the part of internationally recognized territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan which is under Armenian occupation we deem it necessary to respond.

The illegal regime established by Armenia in the temporarily occupied territories of Azerbaijan is ultimately nothing other than the product of aggression and occupation and bloody ethnic cleansing. It is under Armenia's direction and control and survives by virtue of its military, political, financial and other support. It was confirmed by the European Court of Human Rights in its judgment of 16 June 2015 on the case of Chiragov and others v. Armenia.

It has thousands of times emphasized by Azerbaijan that the only possible and just way to achieve sustainable and durable solution of the conflict is based on withdrawal of armed forces of Armenia from Nagorno-Karabakh and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan in an unconditional and complete manner in accordance with the demands of relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, ensuring inalienable rights of Azerbaijani internally displaced persons to return to their native lands, restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and sovereignty within its internationally recognized borders and peaceful co-existence of Armenian and Azerbaijani communities of Nagorno-Karabakh region within the borders of Azerbaijan.

Absence of strong condemnation of Armenia's occupation, deliberate targeting and killing of civilians, in particular the children, appeases the aggressor, encourages its leadership to continue violating fundamental human rights of Azerbaijanis and international humanitarian law. We must underline that current leadership of Armenia throughout all years of the conflict committed crimes against humanity, including well-documented Khojaly genocide of 1992, when 613 persons, including 63 children were killed. Current president of Armenia Sergh Sargsyan was the person leading the massacres of Azerbaijanis. It is no coincidence that in his interview to famous journalist Thomas de Waal in 2003, here I request your kind attention dear colleagues, current president of Armenia Sargsyan described the Khojaly genocide as follows: "Before Khojaly, the Azerbaijanis thought that Armenians were people who could not raise their hands against the civilian population. We were able to break that stereotype". He perfectly

described the state of naïve trust and hope of the Azerbaijani party to the conflict which inadvertently fell victim to misguidance.

Mr. Vice-president,

I would have happily posed several questions to the delegate of Armenia to understand the logic of today's statement. However, the delegation preferred to leave their seat empty, thus to leave no possibility for substantive dialogue. This position could be understandable from the point of view of Armenia, since there is no answer to the occupation of territories, massive displacement of 1 million people from their homelands, deliberate killing of babies and other crimes against humanity.

Thank you.