



Check against delivery

**UN Human Rights Council
Forty-third session**

High-Level Segment

Right of reply

**exercised by Mr. Emin Aslanov, First secretary of the Permanent Representation of
the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations
in Geneva**

26 February 2020

Madam Vice-President,

I have to exercise this right of reply in response to the groundless and hostile accusations made by representatives of Armenia concerning my country. It was yet another unsuccessful attempt to mislead the international community on the essence, course and consequences of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. This is not the first time that Armenia attempts to justify by all means its aggression and occupation of almost one fifth of the territory of Azerbaijan, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven adjacent districts, by resorting to fake historical narratives and legalistic speculations.

Armenian representatives keep distorting and misinterpreting the principle of the people's right to self-determination. Notwithstanding the concept of self-determination enshrined in international law, Armenia attempts to impose the view that this principle may be applied in the form of unilateral secession for the Armenians living in Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. In reality, such a view has nothing in common with the principle of self-determination set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and other relevant international documents. Armenia is simply using the pretext of self-determination to cover up its aggression, use of force against sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

We reiterate that Azerbaijani and Armenian inhabitants of the region are entitled to the internal right to self-determination within the boundaries of Azerbaijan. Therefore, Armenia should halt to dream, as Azerbaijan will never allow the second Armenian state to be established at the expense of Azerbaijani lands.

The UN Security Council Resolutions Armenian delegate refers to explicitly reaffirm the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, and condemn the use of force against Azerbaijan, the occupation of its territories, the attacks on civilians, and demand the

immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of all occupying forces from the areas of Azerbaijan.

The aggressive tone of the Foreign Minister of Armenia yesterday demonstrated once again that Armenia has chosen not to abandon its irredentist territorial claims, and falsifications, which constitute inseparable part of its annexationist policy - which is the main root cause of the conflict.

It is of deep regret that the Armenian side does not refrain from abusing the noble concept of human rights to that end.

It should be reminded that human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal, embrace all humanity, and respect for these rights must be accorded on an equal and non-discriminatory basis. In contrast to that generally accepted definition, Armenia's policy and practices are based on exclusion and discrimination on ethnic grounds.

Attempts by Armenia to portray the Armenian community as "the people of Nagorno-Karabakh" deny the very existence of the indigenous Azerbaijani community of the region and question their inalienable right to be part of a process of deciding the future of the region. Such a position aims at legitimizing the results of the ethnic cleansing, and openly contradicts to the letter and spirit of international human rights law.

Thank you, Madam Vice-President.