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**UN Human Rights Council  
Forty third Session**

**General debate on Item 2**

**Right of reply**

**exercised by Ms. Marziyya Vakilova-Mardaliyeva, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

**February 28, 2020**

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President,

I am exercising this right of reply in response to the right of reply that has been just made by Armenia.

Armenia again follows its predictable way of response by distorting the facts and misleading this august body, instead of abiding by the call of the international community to halt its policy of aggression and occupation against Azerbaijan.

Armenia should not shy away from admitting the simple fact that the just position of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is based on the will of the international community expressed in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions of 1993, which Armenia continues to disregard. OIC adopted numerous resolutions and decisions in which reiterated its principled position on condemnation of the aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan, reaffirmed that acquisition of territory by use of force is inadmissible under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and urged for strict implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions calling for immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia from Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Referring to the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, Armenia has failed to get acquainted with the mandate of the OSCE Minsk Group beforehand, which states that the co-chairs of the Minsk Group will be guided in their activities by the principles and norms of the OSCE, the United Nations Charter and UN Security Council resolutions. Furthermore, they are mandated to inform the President of the Security Council on the implementation of its relevant

resolutions, the resolutions which lay down the legal and political frameworks for the conflict settlement.

The Nagorno-Karabakh region as an integral part of the Republic of Azerbaijan has been reconfirmed in the relevant UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. Today a mono-ethnic state Armenia refuses even to accept the existence of the Azerbaijani community of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. We reiterate there is no definition such as “people of Nagorno-Karabakh”, as the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan consists of two communities, Azerbaijani which has been ethnically cleansed and forcibly expelled from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and Armenian. Azerbaijani and Armenian inhabitants of the region are entitled to the internal right to self-determination within the boundaries of Azerbaijan.

The untenable defense by Armenia of its indefensible actions is nothing more than desperate efforts to distract attention from war crimes and crimes against humanity it has committed. Serving at the Human Rights Council entails serious responsibilities. Armenia, masquerading as a democracy, should be held accountable as a Council member for these crimes.

I thank you.