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**United Nations Human Rights Council
44th session**

ID with SR on Internally Displaced Persons

**Right of Reply expressed by Third Secretary, Kamran Seyfullayev in response to right of
reply delivered by the delegation of Armenia**

8 July 2020

Mr. Vice-President,

I am exercising this right of reply in response to the right of reply that has been made by the delegate of Armenia, whereby Armenia again attempted to mislead the international community on the essence, course and consequences of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by distorting the root causes of the conflict

By doing so Armenia not surprisingly, continues to abuse its membership to this Council. For this purpose, Armenian representatives keep distorting and misinterpreting the principle of the people's right to self-determination as well. Notwithstanding the concept of self-determination 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.

The realities of the conflict that has been recognized by the international community except Armenia, is that in 1991, Armenia unleashed a war against Azerbaijan and occupied the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts of Azerbaijan. Armenia not only occupied 20 percent of the territories of our country, it also carried out ethnic cleansing in that territories together with the continuing destruction of historical and cultural monuments aimed at changing the cultural and historical identity of Azerbaijani territories.

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" that Armenia utilizes in order to archive its political purposes. Attempts by Armenia to portray the Armenian community as "the people of Nagorno-Karabakh" and to deny the very existence of the Azerbaijani population of the region, that were expelled from their homeland are aimed at justification of the facts of aggression and occupation by Armenia.

Mr. Vice-President,

We will always make the voice of the persons to be heard whose fundamental human rights have been violated by Armenia for decades. The economic, social and cultural rights of the Azerbaijani IDPs and refugees are violated more day by day. Armenia is in an attempt tries to destroy and change the cultural heritage of the Azerbaijani people in the territories it occupies.

We would like to remind to the Armenian representative that in its judgement Chiragov and others vs. Armenia, the European Court of Human Rights recognized the continuing violation of the rights of the Azerbaijani citizens forcefully expelled from their homelands. Therefore, instead of delivering baseless accusations here Armenia to comply with its obligations.

Thank you.

