



*Check against delivery*

**UN Human Rights Council  
Forty fifth Session**

**General debate on oral update by High Commissioner**

**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**

**September 15, 2020**

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President,

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

We are amazed at the cynical reaction by Armenia to condemnation of its policy of aggression against Azerbaijan, as the Armenian delegation is fully aware of its own war crimes and crimes against humanity.

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.

Armenian delegate refers to the role of the OSCE Minsk Group in the mediation process, while the destabilizing actions and provocative rhetoric by his country's leadership are diametrically opposite to the spirit and logic of negotiations under the OSCE Minsk Group.

Continued irresponsible actions and provocative statements of Armenia against the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan confirm that the goal of the Armenian leadership is to dismantle the negotiation process and secure the annexation of Azerbaijan's occupied territories. Most recently, the Prime Minister of Armenia has publicly confessed that the strategic goal for Armenia in the settlement process of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is to "safeguard the results of the war".

Mr. Vice-President,

Distortion of facts has become a tedious habit of Armenian delegation. The illegal settlement policy by Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan has been confirmed in the reports of 2 OSCE fact-finding missions. As a result of these missions the Co-Chairmen of OSCE Minsk Group, “discourage[d] any further settlement of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan” and “urge[d] the parties [...] to avoid changes in the demographic structure of the region, which would make more difficult any future efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement.” The Co-Chairmen of OSCE Minsk Group, emphasized that “[p]rolonged continuation of this situation could lead to a fait accompli that would seriously complicate the peace process.”

Armenia’s illegal settlement policy in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan aims at strengthening the results of ethnic cleansing in the occupied territories, the status quo based on occupation. Few days ago, news about a family from Lebanon settled in the occupied city of Shusha of Azerbaijan has been posted on social media.

Under the Fourth Geneva Convention it is unlawful for an occupying power to transfer population into the territory it occupies. International Law Commission considers “the establishment of settlers in an occupied territory and changes to the demographic composition of an occupied territory” as an “exceptionally serious war crime”.

What is ironic, is that the transfer of population to illegally occupied territories is a crime under Armenia’s own legislation. Under Article 390 of Armenia’s Criminal Code, the occupying power’s deportation of the local population and transfer of its people to the occupied territories is a grave violation of international humanitarian law and is punishable by 8-12 years of imprisonment. This is vivid example of the respect to the rule of law in the so-called democratic Armenia.

Mr. Vice-President,

Armenia misinterprets the principle of the people’s right to self-determination and attempts to apply this principle in the form of unilateral secession for the Armenians living in 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.

Armenia must understand that its illegal activities will not yield the expected results for Armenia. No matter how much wishful thinking Armenia does, Nagorno-Karabakh is an integral part of Azerbaijan and the Azerbaijani population of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan will return to their homes.

Thank you.