



**UN Human Rights Council
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**General Debate under Agenda Item 4
Human rights situations that require the Council's attention**

**Statement
delivered by Amb. Vaqif Sadıqov
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

12 March 2021

Madam President,

At the outset, I would like to stress that Azerbaijan is of the view that respect for territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs of sovereign states are important principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. In this regard, we stress that the issues brought to the attention of the UN Human Rights Council, including those related to China, must be approached in full conformity with these principles.

Madame President,

We would like to draw the attention of the Council to the latest period of hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan in September – November 2020. With the aim of pursuing “a new war for new territories” Armenia launched a large-scale military attack against Azerbaijan on 27 September 2020. However, a new wave of Armenia’s aggression was resolutely repelled by Azerbaijan, and the military defeat of Armenia has put an end to almost 30 year-long Armenian occupation of the Azerbaijani territories, namely Dağlıq Qarabağ region and seven adjacent districts.

The trilateral Statement of 10 November 2020, signed by the leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Russia, further complemented by another trilateral Statement of 11 January 2021, declared an end to all hostilities and thus created conditions conducive for normalization of inter-state relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan and for sustainable peace, security and economic development in the region. Thus, the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict ceased to exist.

Azerbaijan has immediately embarked upon the wide-range post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction programme of its formerly occupied territories to eliminate the consequences of military occupation, and to pave way for safe and dignified return of thousands of hundreds of Azerbaijani displaced persons to their lands, thus restoring their violated human rights.

In the meantime, at present one of the most important issues hampering rehabilitation works is massive contamination of the liberated territories of Azerbaijan with mines and other explosive devices laid by Armenia in the period of occupation, in particular on the eve of the withdrawal of its military from Azerbaijan, and its refusal to release maps of these minefields.

Armenia's refusal of handing over maps of minefields has already claimed the lives of 18 and led to injuries of 71 citizens of Azerbaijan since the end of hostilities. This situation continues to cause serious threats to lives and safety of Azerbaijani population and affects the realization of the inalienable right of Azerbaijani IDPs to return to their homes in the liberated territories in safety and dignity.

In view of the abovementioned, Azerbaijan calls upon UN Members States and the UN bodies to urge Armenia to live up to its obligations under international law and to immediately hand over maps of minefields to Azerbaijan.

Thank you.