



**UN Human Rights Council
Forty-fifth Session**

General Debate

Agenda Item 4: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Statement

**delivered by Mr. Seymur Mardaliyev,
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

Geneva, 25 September 2020

Madame President,

Armenia continues denying the fundamental right of the Azerbaijani displaced population forcibly expelled by Armenia from the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding regions of Azerbaijan to return to their native lands, by illegally settling ethnic Armenians to the occupied territories in blatant violation of its obligations under the international human rights and humanitarian law, as well as its own domestic law.

This policy carried out for many years has particularly accelerated in the aftermath of the tragic explosion in Beirut, Lebanon, which was used by the Armenian authorities as a pretext to pursue the ongoing plan of settling ethnic Armenians from that country in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan in Armenia's malicious political interests, with hundreds of illegal settlers already deployed therein. In order to secure outside financing from foreign governments and humanitarian agencies, Armenia presents its own actions as "repatriation programmes" to bring back ethnic Armenians "to escape the oppression against them", but in reality upon arrival to Armenia these people are deployed into the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Madame President,

Azerbaijan reiterates that *fait accompli* may not serve as a basis for the settlement of the ongoing armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Neither the current situation within the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, nor any action, including engaging in illegal settlement policy in order to consolidate the *status quo*, shall be recognized as legally valid.

We call on this Council and the Office of the High Commissioner to stand for the protection of the fundamental human rights and freedoms of the Azerbaijani displaced population and to urge Armenia to abide by its obligations under the international law by ceasing its illegal settlement policy in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

I thank you.