



## General Assembly

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### United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

Quito, 17–20 October 2016

Item 8 of the agenda

#### General debate

### **Letter dated 28 September 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)**

**Dear Mr. Clos,**

Upon instructions received from my Government, I would like to express strong protest with regard to provocative and unacceptable statement made against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the national report of the Republic of Armenia for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (available at the official website of Habitat III <https://www.habitat3.org/bitcache/c9dc226da940dee9461e1cfa899005f1539e1468?vid=561765&disposition=inline&op=view>).

Thus, while informing about various events organized in Armenia within the framework of the Youth Foundation of Armenia (Chapter 1, “Demographic issues of settlements”, paragraph 1.3, “Addressing the needs of the youth”), the report mentions the areas within the Republic of Azerbaijan and another neighbouring country as allegedly located in Armenia.

It is well known that the Nagorno-Karabakh region, which is falsely referred to in the aforementioned report as “Artsakh”, and seven surrounding districts of Azerbaijan are under Armenian military occupation. In its resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), the United Nations Security Council condemned the use of force against Azerbaijan and the occupation of its territories, and reaffirmed respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the inviolability of its international borders. The Council also confirmed that Nagorno-Karabakh is inalienable part of Azerbaijan, and demanded the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of all occupying forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

In its aforementioned resolutions, the Security Council made it clear that the Armenian actions were unlawful and incompatible with the prohibition of the use of armed force in international relations; that they constituted an obvious violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and, specifically, of Article 2(4) of the Charter of the United Nations.

In its resolution A/RES/66/207, the United Nations General Assembly decided to convene in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) and underlined, *inter alia*, that the conference and its preparatory process should take into account and build upon the relevant principles and internationally agreed development goals, including those contained, among other documents, in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we

want". That position was reiterated in General Assembly resolution A/RES/67/216 of 21 December 2012, which further noted that the objective of the conference would be to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable urban development, assessing accomplishments to date, addressing poverty and identifying and addressing new and emerging challenges, and that the focus of the conference would include, but will not be limited to, the theme "Sustainable urban development: the future of urbanization".

In the United Nations Millennium Declaration (United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/55/2 of 8 September 2000) and in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want" (United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/66/288 of 27 July 2012), the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and respect for the territorial integrity and political independence of States.

The Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) will be the first United Nations global summit after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. In the outcome document, which approved the 2030 Agenda, the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives emphasized that the new Agenda was guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for international law, and was to be implemented in a manner that was consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law, reaffirming the need to respect the territorial integrity and political independence of States (United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/70/1 of 25 September 2015).

By continuing to unlawfully occupy the territories of Azerbaijan, by deliberately denying the right of more than 1 million Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced persons to return to their homes and properties, by pursuing racist ideology, and by raising territorial claims to neighbouring countries, Armenia grossly violates the Charter of the United Nations, the norms and principles of international law and the relevant resolutions adopted by the principal organs of the United Nations, and undermines the regional peace, security and stability.

The allegations contained in the aforementioned national report of Armenia prove also that its Government is not genuinely interested in engaging faithfully in the negotiations to resolve the conflict on the basis of international law.

Taking into account the aforementioned, it is critically important that the Secretariat of the Conference take appropriate measures to ensure either the deletion of the reference to the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan from the national report of Armenia or, otherwise, the removal of the report from the website of Habitat III or any other official source of the United Nations, as inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations, the generally accepted norms and principles of international law, the principles and internationally agreed development goals and the aims of the Conference.

I would also appreciate if the Secretariat could keep the matter under constant attention, so that to prevent any further provocations from the Armenian side, and circulate the present letter as an official document of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yashar Aliyev  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative