

**Azərbaycan Respublikasının
BMT yanında Daimi
Nümayəndəliyi**



**Permanent Mission of the
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to the United Nations**

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PRESS RELEASE

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**Statement by Mr. Gaya Mammadov,
Special Envoy and Head of the International Security Department of the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan,
at the High-level Thematic Debate on the United Nations, Peace and Security**

(New York, 05.11.2016)

Mr. President,

We would like to thank the President of the UN General Assembly for organizing this high-level debate with a theme dedicated to the purpose the Organization.

During the seventy years since the establishment of the United Nations, significant achievements have been attained in practical implementation of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. The United Nations has become the central venue for global efforts to maintain international peace and security, to promote prosperity and growth. Nevertheless, maintenance of the international peace and security continues to remain the most urgent task for the international community to cope with. On the one hand, the security situation around the world has become more complex due to ever increasing number of new challenges. On the other hand, traditional threats to the international peace are persisting. The core principles of the UN Charter guiding inter-State relations, most notably those relating to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of States, are being frequently violated.

All of these require certain adjustments in the work of the Organization. In this regard, we support the calls for reform of the United Nations, in particular, on issues relating to the Security Council, which bears the primary responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security. The world cannot afford situations when the resolutions of the UN Security Council remain on paper.

Moreover, the emphasis by the United Nations on the justice in international relations needs to be reinvigorated. The cases of impunity for serious crimes, including war crimes and crimes against humanity, undermine international solidarity and the rule of law in international relations.

The deterioration of the security situation around the world especially during the past two decades has increased human suffering. This drains huge resources from the United Nations, which is evident from the significant increase in its peacekeeping and humanitarian activities. Therefore, there is a need for more proactive efforts by the UN in conflict prevention, mediation and peace building.

In this regard, we would like to explicitly refer to the ongoing conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, which poses a serious threat to the international peace and security. Armenia's destructive policy represents a serious challenge to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and to the Organization as a whole. Armenia continues to use force against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, and militarily occupies its territories. It disregards the resolutions UN Security Council, which reaffirm the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and demand unconditional withdrawal of occupying troops of Armenia from Azerbaijan. Armenia also disrupts any attempt to settle the conflict by peaceful means. It frequently violates the ceasefire and deliberately attacks the civilian population of Azerbaijan in an effort to divert the attention from the core substantive issues of the peace process to the technical aspects of ceasefire. Thereby, it aims to cement the status-quo, to prolong the occupation of Azerbaijan's territories and to prevent the return of Azerbaijani IDPs to their homes. Most recently, Armenia conducted large-scale attacks against the civilian population of Azerbaijan in early April this year. Despite the bilateral ceasefire agreement reached on April 5, 2016, Armenia continues its massive bombardment of Azerbaijan's civilian population.

For more than twenty years, Azerbaijan has been waiting for effective international actions to put an end to Armenia's grave breach of peace and massive war crimes and crimes against humanity. We call on the international community to exert pressure on Armenia so that it terminates its use of force against Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, withdraws its troops from Azerbaijan and engages in negotiations in good faith with a view to the earliest resolution of the conflict by political means.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate Azerbaijan's firm commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and our belief that those will continue to guide the international relations in the decades ahead.

Thank you.