



**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

633 Third Avenue, Suite 3210, New York, NY, 10017
Tel: (212) 371-2559, 371-2832 (ext. 101); Fax: (212) 371-2784, (646) 738-6143

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Yashar Aliyev
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the United Nations**

at the Security Council open debate on “The role of States, regional arrangements and the United Nations in the prevention and resolution of conflicts” under the agenda item “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security”

06 December 2018

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank the President of the Security Council – the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire – for having convened this important open debate on the role of States, regional arrangements and the United Nations in the prevention and resolution of conflicts.

Azerbaijan joins the statement made earlier today by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and I would like to share with some additional remarks in my national capacity.

The prevention of conflict is critical in ensuring a peaceful international environment. In a number of situations, successful efforts have reduced tensions and helped prevent bloodshed. Furthermore, important progress has been achieved in enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements across a full range of areas – from the maintenance of international peace and security and humanitarian assistance to development and the protection of human rights.

However, serious challenges remain and my country’s practical experience of facing armed aggression, foreign military occupation and ethnic cleansing is illustrative in that regard. Despite Security Council resolutions, demands and condemnation by the international community and ongoing conflict settlement efforts within the framework of the OSCE, the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven other surrounding districts of Azerbaijan continue to remain under unlawful military occupation, while deliberate actions are being carried out in the occupied territories with a view to securing their colonization and annexation, in clear violation of international law.

Mr. President,

As the concept note rightly emphasizes, many contemporary conflicts are internal crises, which in a growing number of cases are taking place in environments where the situation is severely exacerbated by new threats and challenges. At the same time, the nature of conflict has changed significantly over the years. It is abundantly clear that the boundary between intra-State and inter-State conflicts has become increasingly blurred in recent decades.

The most frequent and complicated instances include attempts by States to camouflage aggression and disguise their role in fueling conflicts on the territories of other States. This obviously imposes an additional burden upon the international system and mechanisms and upon various regional and subregional organizations dealing with conflict prevention and resolution.

Against this background, in some instances regional arrangements are evidently misused by the violators of international law as a shield for consolidating military gains and undermining the efforts towards achieving solutions to regional conflicts and other security problems.

The concept note raises a fundamental question as to how cooperation between the United Nations, States and regional and subregional organizations in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts can be strengthened in practice.

Most importantly, consistency should be maintained in identifying ways and means of international response to crises and conflicts, as well as to apparent distortion of the international legal norms and principles. Needless to say, the implementation of resolutions adopted by the principal organs of the United Nations and accountability must be part and parcel of collective efforts towards that end.

The purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations constitute a foundational normative framework in international relations. There is no alternative to commonly agreed rules and their universal application, including in particular with regard to the resolution of conflicts, whatever their distinct root causes and characteristics.

The fulfillment in good faith of the obligations assumed by States based on full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and inviolability of their international borders are necessary prerequisites for the maintenance of international and regional peace and security and are at the core of economic cooperation and sustainable development.

It is our common duty to promote and support a reinvigorated and strengthened multilateral system. The involvement of States and regional, subregional and other intergovernmental organizations and their close cooperation with the United Nations must be reinforced and integrated into a reformed peace architecture. Azerbaijan will continue to be an active partner in that process.

Thank you.