



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

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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Yashar Aliyev  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations  
at the Security Council open videoconference on the theme “Ensuring transparency, efficiency and  
effectiveness in the work of the Security Council” under the item “Implementation of Note by the  
President of the Security Council (S/2017/507)”**

*15 May 2020*

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to commend the delegations of Estonia, in its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of May 2020, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, as Chair of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, for holding this meeting and for submitting a concept note (S/2020/374) on the topic. We also thank the briefers for their presentations.

The working methods of the Security Council, on which the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security is conferred, continue to attract increased attention and interest among the broader membership. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic raised the need for taking additional urgent measures aimed at safeguarding the effectiveness of the Security Council under extraordinary and unprecedented circumstances.

We acknowledge the role that the Informal Working Group is playing by advancing ways to further enhance the transparency, accountability and overall efficiency of the Council’s work and welcoming the progress achieved in improving its working methods. I would also like to praise the work done so far by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, as the current Chair of the Informal Working Group, as well as the efforts and contributions made by the former Chairs.

Taking into account the guiding questions proposed for consideration at this meeting, I would like to focus briefly on the following three points.

First, it is clear that unity among the permanent members is absolute necessity for reaching agreements. At the same time, it is important to always remember that both permanent and elected members of the Security Council bear collective responsibility for international peace and security. We note general recognition among Council members that transparency and efficiency can be secured jointly and would welcome further deliberations and contributions to make the Council a more collaborative and inclusive organ.

Secondly, the broader United Nations membership should be given more opportunities to be heard and informed fully and timely. We take a positive note of some developments in that respect and would like to particularly commend some elected members for their efforts to ensure the transparency of the Security Council and its interaction with the wider membership, especially now during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thirdly, effectiveness and accountable functioning of the Security Council necessitate, first and foremost, the implementation of its decisions. Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations is clear about the obligations of Member States to that effect. The fact that the unlawful use of force against sovereign States and the resulting territorial acquisitions continue, Security Council resolutions notwithstanding, does not mean that such state of affairs can constitute the Council's working methods. The objective of maintaining international peace and security is hardly achievable if the universally recognized fundamental values, norms and principles are overtly disregarded, misinterpreted or conditioned by aggressors to whitewash their illegal actions.

The purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations are fundamental constituents of the common rule-based international order; they are universally binding and apply to all crises and conflicts whatever their distinct root causes and nature. The powers and responsibilities of the main organs of the United Nations and the decisions adopted by them cannot be substituted, conditioned or limited by regional and subregional organizations or their conflict-settlement or mediation formats and mechanisms. Protracted conflicts and their political, military and humanitarian consequences, such as prolonged foreign occupation, ethnic cleansing and the lack of accountability for atrocity crimes, cannot be forgotten.

The implementation of Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993) on the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict must be among the priorities of the United Nations. The primary objective of the ongoing peace process, the mandate of which is based on those resolutions, is to ensure the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from all the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, the restoration of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders and the return of the forcibly displaced persons to their homes and properties. The achievement of that objective is mandatory, not a compromise, as the use of force and the resulting military occupation and ethnic cleansing of the territories of Azerbaijan are incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations and international law and will never bring peace, reconciliation and stability.

In the year of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, our common purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the Organization remain as important as ever. Strict compliance with these purposes and principles and the fulfillment in good faith of the obligations assumed by States under the Charter are of the greatest importance for the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of sustained economic growth, sustainable development, human rights, justice and international law.

Thank you.