

Statement by Mr. Tofiq F. Musayev, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations, in the exercise of the first right of reply

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Unfortunately, the reply of the delegate of Armenia inclined to repeating usual false and irrelevant narratives and once again demonstrated the distorted perception of his Government of obligations incumbent upon it under international law. Otherwise, he would not have imagined referring to the so-called "aggression of Azerbaijan" against a non-existent entity.

The so-called "Nagorno-Karabakh" has long ceased to exist as an administrative and territorial unit. Pursuant to the Decree of the President of Azerbaijan dated 7 July 2021, the Garabagh and East Zangazur economic regions were established in Azerbaijan.

In response to armed attacks against its civilian population and armed forces, Azerbaijan used a counter-force to end the occupation of its territories, protect its people and allow more than 700.000 internally displaced persons to return to their homes. Azerbaijan acted exclusively on its sovereign soil, in full compliance with international law.

The legality of Azerbaijan's recourse to the right of self-defence, as provided in article 51 of the U.N. Charter and customary international law, is indisputable. Yet in 2008, in the comprehensive legal report that Azerbaijan circulated in the U.N., it was noted:

"Evidently, the Republic of Armenia may still forestall such developments by putting a prompt end to the occupation of [the territories of Azerbaijan]. Should the Republic of Armenia do this while the cease-fire lasts, and before the Republic of Azerbaijan opts to re-invoke its right of self-defence, there would be no ground for any actual resumption of hostilities..." (A/63/662-S/2008/812, annex, para. 28)

Unfortunately, Armenia ignored this clear message and should definitely blame itself for such a miscalculation and for believing in endless impunity.

As we are discussing the agenda item entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", it would be useful to recall the rich experience of Armenia and Armenian diaspora in supporting and promoting international terrorism.

Thus, only between 1970s and 1980s, Armenian terrorist organizations committed more than two hundred terrorist acts in different countries of North America, Europe and the Middle East, killing at least 70 and injuring over 500 people; more than 100 people were taken hostage, 12 of whom were executed. Those terrorist acts included at least 160 bomb attacks and accounted for the vast majority of deaths and wounding, as they were generally committed in crowded public areas, such as airports, city squares and shopping malls.

Since the end of the 1980s, Armenia and various terrorist organizations under its direction and control have perpetrated numerous terrorist attacks against Azerbaijan, claiming the lives of over 2,000 of its citizens, the majority of them women, the elderly and children.

Furthermore, the succeeding governments of Armenia have consistently demonstrated their solidarity with, and support and sympathy for the perpetrators of terrorist acts. Some of the convicted terrorists were even raised to the status of national heroes in Armenia.

We would recommend the interested delegations to familiarize themselves with more information on the subject matter, which is contained in documents A/66/796-S/2012/308 and A/75/625-S/2020/1161. These documents, along with numerous others, provide for compelling evidence testifying to responsibility of Armenia for terrorist activities and the use of foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries against Azerbaijan.

Against this background, the attempts of the delegation of Armenia to blame and lecture others sound absurd and ridiculous, to say the least. In effect, Armenia definitely must be the last to share knowledge and experience about counter-terrorism.