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**Statement by Mr. Tofiq F. Musayev
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations**

**at the Sixth Committee of the seventy-seventh session of the United Nations General
Assembly under agenda item 112: "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism"**

4 October 2022

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election.

Azerbaijan aligns itself with the statements made on behalf of NAM and OIC, and I would like to offer some additional remarks in our national capacity.

Over the years, the international community has achieved tangible results in countering terrorism, developing international law, promoting cooperation and coordination and enhancing the capacities of States to that effect.

However, despite the adoption of numerous international documents and essential normative, organizational and practical efforts at the global, regional and subregional levels, terrorism remains a potential and even immediate threat in many regions and countries.

Terrorism has become more geographically, ideologically and tactically diverse and has evolved further under the impact of information and communication technologies, with the online spread of hate speech, extensive disinformation campaigns and the risk of cyber disruption of critical infrastructure.

The threat from racially and ethnically motivated individuals and groups resorting to terrorist methods and means has also increased.

Terrorism continues to benefit from organized crime, both domestic and transnational, and from the abuse of non-governmental, non-profit and charitable organizations.

Furthermore, armed conflicts create conditions conducive to exploitation by terrorists and other non-state actors, particularly when their operational capabilities are supported and strengthened with States behind them and uncontrolled access to armaments and ammunition.

Terrorist acts committed in the context of armed conflict may amount to war crimes, entailing individual criminal responsibility and States' obligations to investigate, prosecute and punish terrorism offenders, as well as giving rise to the need for international cooperation in criminal matters.

The fight against impunity for terrorist activities is critical. It is important not to grant amnesty or any other form of early release to the perpetrators of terrorist acts. Equally, the instances of shielding and glorification of terrorists cannot be tolerated.

The strict compliance by all States with their international counter-terrorism obligations is critical to ensure, *inter alia*, that their respective territories are not used for terrorist, separatist and other related activity, in particular for financing of and providing, directly or indirectly, any other support to such activity under whatever pretext or disguise.

We look forward to the effective implementation of the General Assembly resolution on the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as a matter of priority, in good faith and through genuine international cooperation, partnership and solidarity.

Mr. Chairman,

We resolutely reject as false and irresponsible the information presented by Armenia for the report of the Secretary-General (A/77/185), as well as the statement delivered by the delegation of Armenia under this agenda item.

The purpose of Armenia's fabrications is evidently to mislead the international community and conceal own racially motivated terrorist and related criminal offenses.

Armenia has a longstanding track record of supporting and using terrorism at the State level. Since the late 1980s, Armenia and a number of terrorist organizations under its direction and control committed numerous terrorist acts against Azerbaijan, claiming the lives of thousands of the citizens of my country.

Moreover, the territories of Azerbaijan formerly occupied by Armenia were a graphic example of the heavy militarization of the occupying forces and their interpenetration with international terrorism and organized crime.

The evidence collected prior to and throughout the hostilities in the fall of 2020 shows that Armenia recruited foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries from Europe, the Middle East and North America and that civil aviation was used to transfer them and weapons to the conflict zone, in violation of international law.

The Armenian diaspora, operating under the disguise of charity organizations and NGOs was engaged in facilitating the recruitment and transfer process and in raising funds and collecting other material means to finance terrorist activities and support the aggression against Azerbaijan.

Furthermore, Armenia's apparent falsehood and continued territorial claims and terrorist objectives are evidenced also in its mentioning of a fictitious area names in its formal communications and pronouncements, including the information submitted by Armenia for the report of the Secretary-General and the statement its delegation made earlier today in this Committee.

In that regard, I have to remind that so-called "Nagorno-Karabakh" long ceased to exist as an administrative and territorial unit. This area is an integral part of Azerbaijan, which was under Armenia's unlawful occupation for nearly three decades. Following the liberation of the occupied territories and the end of the conflict, by his decree of 7 July 2021, the President of Azerbaijan established the Karabakh and East Zangazur economic regions in Azerbaijan.

As a member of the United Nations, Armenia must be aware that only geographical names established by legitimate and competent national authorities in relation to their sovereign territory must be recognized and used in the Organization. The respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States is an absolute imperative.

Azerbaijan will continue to take all necessary measures to curb terrorist activities and to prosecute and punish terrorist offenders.

Thank you.