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Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the exercise of the second right of reply to the statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Armenia at the General Debate of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly

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The comments just made by the delegate of Armenia, full of usual distortions and fabrications, are illustrative as to the consistent attempts by that Member State to deny the facts that point to its policy of aggression, hostility, hatred and falsifications.

It was exactly the Armenian armed attacks against areas within Azerbaijan in 1993, which elicited a series of four UN Security Council resolutions and the presidential statements. The demand of cessation of hostilities was thus first and foremost directed at the invading Armenian forces.

It was Armenia that intentionally disregarded the demands of the Security Council for the immediate cessation of all military activities and hostile acts for the purposes of establishing a stable ceasefire. The events that unfolded before and in the aftermath of the adoption of each resolution make it clear that Armenia's allegations are baseless and leave no doubt as to who was responsible for the continuing armed hostilities and to whom the demands of the Security Council were exclusively addressed.

No doubt, the claims by Armenia run counter to the norms of international law and are without foundation. It is well known that the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts of Azerbaijan are under Armenian military occupation. Indeed, Armenia used military force to occupy the territory of Azerbaijan and to establish upon it the subordinate regime. That regime is entirely unrecognized as such; it is under the direction and control of Armenia and is ultimately nothing other than the product of aggression, racial discrimination and ethnic cleansing. As a consequence, the illegality of that regime and its structures has been repeatedly stated at the international level.

Armenia's policy of aggression and territorial claims is not only a threat to peace and security, but also is one of the main causes of deep political crisis and dire economic situation in the country.

No doubt, the international community would be interested in hearing from the delegation of Armenia about the real problems the country is facing in the socio-economic sphere, significant drop in major segments of economy in recent years and high migration from the country of its citizens.

However, neither the Prime Minister nor the delegate of Armenia mentioned in their statements any efforts the Government is taking to address these challenges and implement the Sustainable Development Goals. They preferred to keep silence on that simply because they have nothing to say.

As we have repeatedly stated before, and I would like to stress it once again, the earlier the Government of Armenia realize the lack of any prospect of its dangerous political agenda, the sooner the conflict will be resolved and our countries and peoples will be able to benefit from peace, stability and cooperation.