



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

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**Statement by Mr. Tofiq Musayev  
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations  
at a virtual informal meeting of the General Assembly on the consideration of the annual report of  
the Security Council (A/74/2)**

*31 August 2020*

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for convening today's meeting to consider the annual report of the Security Council, as contained in document A/74/2. We also thank the members of the Security Council for submitting the report to the General Assembly, in fulfillment of its obligation under Article 24(3) of the Charter of the United Nations. General Assembly deliberations on the annual reports of the Security Council are important avenues for Member States to share their views on the work of the Council and to emphasize the areas of concern that require special attention and dedication.

Taking into account that the Security Council, in discharging its functions, acts on behalf of all Member States, the broader United Nations membership should be given more opportunities to be heard. We take a positive note of some developments in this respect and look forward to additional efforts to enhance the transparency and accountability of the Security Council and its interaction with the wider membership.

Current challenges to peace and security facing the world call for a strengthening of the international legal order and redoubled efforts at all levels. Strict compliance with the generally accepted norms and principles of international law guiding inter-State relations is imperative to that end.

The 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 unlawful use of force against sovereign States and the resulting territorial acquisitions continue, the Security Council resolutions notwithstanding, does not mean that such state of affairs can constitute an accepted practice of the Council.

Mr. President,

As is known, in its unanimously adopted resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), the Security Council condemned the use of force against Azerbaijan, the occupation of its territories, the attacks on civilians and the bombardment of inhabited areas in my country, reaffirmed respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory. In response to territorial claims and forcible actions, the Security Council reconfirmed in those resolutions that the Nagorno-Karabakh region is an integral part of Azerbaijan and demanded the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from all the occupied territories.

It was exactly the Armenian armed attacks against Azerbaijan and the occupation of its territories, which elicited the aforementioned resolutions of the Security Council, as well as seven statements by its President. The resolutions provide authoritative clarification as to the committed acts, the violated obligations and the duties to put an end to the illegal situation thus created. They qualified Armenia's actions as the unlawful use of force and invalidated its claims over the territories of Azerbaijan once and for all.

The numerous decisions and documents adopted by other international organizations are framed along the same lines.

Thus, in its declaration of 4 November 1993, adopted in connection with the expansion of territorial seizures by the Armenian armed forces notwithstanding the Security Council resolutions, the OSCE Minsk Group stated in particular that "no acquisition of territory by force can be recognized, and the occupation of territory cannot be used to obtain international recognition or to impose a change of legal status" (S/26718, enclosure I).

However, key Security Council demands remain unimplemented until now and, as an immediate corollary, this unresolved conflict and its military and humanitarian consequences continue to endanger peace, security and development. Moreover, Armenia persistently obstructs the conflict settlement process and regularly resorts to various provocations aimed at escalating the situation on the ground and consolidating the current status quo.

On 12 July 2020, the armed forces of Armenia, in blatant violation of international law, launched a cross-border attack against Azerbaijan in the Tovuz district, with the use of artillery and mortars. The attacks continued on the following days, directly targeting also the adjacent densely populated areas in the Aghdam, Dongar Qushchu and Alibeyli villages of the Tovuz district of Azerbaijan. As a result, a 76-year-old resident of the Aghdam village and 12 officers and soldiers of the armed forces of Azerbaijan were killed, and many were wounded. Serious damage was inflicted upon the civilian facilities in the area. It is notable that Armenia launched the attacks across the international border, far away from the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Even the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has not prevented Armenia from its armed provocation. It is apparent that Armenia's statement on its alleged support for and adherence to the appeal of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for a global ceasefire is nothing other than utter falsehood. No doubt, Armenia's objective is not to save lives and alleviate the sufferings of people in need, but to expand and secure its aggression and annexation. Instead of preparing its population for peace, the current Armenian leadership has replicated its predecessors' annexationist policy, both in words and deeds.

The recent escalation has taken place against the background of Armenia's continued attempts to challenge the format of negotiations and derail the peace process, misinterpret the norms and principles of international law, the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and other documents and decisions on the conflict settlement, prolong the occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan, strengthen its military build-up in these territories and change their demographic, cultural and physical character. Such actions, as well as the attempts by Armenia to introduce the internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan – the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied districts – under different fake names, promote and advertise the unlawful puppet regime it has established in those territories have nothing in common with the objective of the peaceful and negotiated settlement of the conflict based on international law.

Azerbaijan has repeatedly brought to the attention of the international community that Armenia's aggression is the main cause of the war and the reoccurring escalations on the ground. We have consistently brought to the attention of the Security Council the challenges emanating from the continued unlawful occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan. The communications submitted by Azerbaijan and circulated as documents of the Security Council and the General Assembly during the reporting period are referred to in Chapter 5 of Part V of the Report of the Security Council under consideration.

It is pertinent to recall in that regard that serious breaches of obligations under peremptory norms of general international law give rise to additional consequences. They include, inter alia, the duties of States to cooperate in order to bring to an end such breaches by lawful means and not to recognize as lawful a situation created by a serious breach, nor render aid or assistance in maintaining that situation. It is therefore critical that the international community insist on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993) and on strict compliance by Armenia with its international obligations.

Aggression and its military consequences do not represent a solution and will never bring peace, reconciliation and stability. The resolution of the conflict is possible only on the basis of the norms and principles of international law, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders. Azerbaijan considers no political solution to the conflict beyond this framework and participates in the settlement process based on this understanding.

Thank you.