



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

633 Third Avenue, Suite 3210, New York, NY, 10017
Tel: (212) 371-2559, 371-2832 (ext. 101); Fax: (212) 371-2784, (646) 738-6143

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Yashar Aliyev
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations
at the plenary meeting of the General Assembly to consider the annual report of the
Security Council (A/73/2)**

12 September 2019

Madam President,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for convening today's plenary meeting to consider the annual report of the Security Council, as contained in document A/73/2.

General Assembly deliberations on the annual reports of the Security Council, as required in Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations, 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.

Madam 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 the Republic 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 four 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 made in connection with the capture and occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan, the Minsk Group of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is mandated to promote a resolution of the conflict and facilitate negotiations to that end, 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.

Against that background, we observe Armenia's attempts to downplay the relevance of the resolutions and misinterpret their purpose and content. In the same vein, it 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. Suffice it to mention some recent notorious examples.

Last month, at the highest political level, Armenia declared the sovereign territory of my country – the Nagorno-Karabakh region – as part of Armenia, thus disclosing its plans on the annexation of the occupied areas of Azerbaijan, in blatant violation of international law and the Security Council resolutions. That statement was preceded by other provocative pronouncements made by various senior members of the Government of Armenia, such as those on not returning "an inch of land" back to Azerbaijan and threatening "a new war for new territories".

Furthermore, despite earlier warnings and condemnation by the international community and against the background of ongoing efforts towards the political settlement of the conflict, deliberate actions are being carried out in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan with a view to securing their colonization and annexation. Such actions include, *inter alia*, implantation of settlers, destruction and appropriation of historical and cultural heritage, exploitation and pillage of and illicit trade in assets, natural resources and other wealth in the occupied territories.

The attempts by Armenia to introduce the internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan – the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied districts – under different fake names, as well as to promote and advertise the unlawful puppet regime it has established in those territories are equally null and void. The illegality of that regime has been repeatedly stated at the international level; it is under Yerevan’s direction and control and is ultimately nothing other than the product of aggression, racial discrimination and ethnic cleansing.

All of the above confirms the need for urgent action of the United Nations and the wider international community. We have consistently brought to the attention of the Security Council the challenges emanating from the continued aggression against my country. The communications submitted by Azerbaijan and circulated as documents of the Security Council and General Assembly during the reporting period are referred to in Chapter 4 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.

The primary objective of the ongoing peace process, the mandate of which is based on the Security Council 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 a must, not a compromise. It is equally inevitable and pressing as the unlawful use of force and the resulting military occupation and ethnic cleansing of the territories of Azerbaijan do not represent a solution and will never bring peace, reconciliation and stability.

Thank you.