



**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 on the report of the
Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (A/74/1)**

22 January 2020

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for convening this plenary meeting to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization. We are grateful to the Security-General for submitting the report and sharing his priorities for 2020.

The United Nations is a critical pillar of multilateralism. As the world faces protracted conflicts, forced population displacements, persisting terrorism and extremism, inequality, poverty, hunger and climate change, no single Member State or organization can address these global challenges alone.

Azerbaijan commends the Secretary-General's strong commitment to reform and fully supports his efforts towards making the United Nations more integrated, effective and efficient.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a clear and universal road map for building a fair globalization and transforming economies and societies to ensure that no one is left behind. We note the progress achieved and recognize the need to bring much greater urgency and ambition to reach our targets.

Among important steps taken to that end, we note the transformation of the United Nations development system, the strengthening and streamlining the peace and security architecture, the creation of new management structures at Headquarters and the decentralization of decision-making authority.

We agree with the Secretary-General that solving climate change is fundamental for achieving sustainable development goals and realizing the 2030 Agenda. Implementation of national commitments and fulfilling pledges under the Paris Agreement, achieving our collective climate goals as quickly as possible and strengthened international cooperation in support of the countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change must remain among our top priorities.

Azerbaijan supports the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative and endorsed its Declaration of Shared Commitments. We acknowledge clear improvements achieved across the key areas of this multi-year initiative, which constitutes now the United Nations core agenda for fostering peacekeeping as one of the most effective tools for maintaining international peace and security.

The deployment of our officers to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) in 2019 has become Azerbaijan's first contribution of military personnel to a peacekeeping operation under the United Nations flag, demonstrating the country's strong support to United Nations peacekeeping efforts and commitment to the maintenance of international peace and security.

Coherence between peacemaking, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development is important. This interconnection has been explicitly acknowledged in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture.

In the 2030 Agenda, the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives stated in particular that there could be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

In his report, the Secretary-General refers to concrete examples of progress in addressing volatile situations, resolving conflicts and restoring hope to those affected by years of war, violence and instability. However, serious challenges remain, with the continued resurgence of conflict, increased levels of displacement, hate-driven violence and the proliferated number of conflict actors.

Protracted conflicts and their political, military and humanitarian consequences must not be forgotten. Peoples throughout the world continue to suffer from prolonged foreign occupation, ethnic cleansing and the lack of accountability for atrocity crimes.

Most conflicts are regional and cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter is essential for the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Important progress has been achieved in recent years in enhancing such cooperation across a full range of areas – from the maintenance of international peace and security and humanitarian assistance to development and the promotion and protection of human rights.

However, while regional and subregional organizations are normally well positioned to understand and address the causes and consequences of armed conflict and crises in their regions, not all of them are capable of ensuring Member States' compliance with their statutory commitments. In some instances, regional arrangements are evidently misused by the violators of international law as a shield for consolidating military gains and undermining efforts aimed at achieving solutions to regional conflicts and other security challenges.

Coherent global responses and common efforts, with the United Nations at the core, are the most effective ways to address conflicts, fight climate change and global terrorism, manage forced displacements and migratory flows and achieve the goals of peace, inclusive sustainable development and human rights for all. Support for that role of the United Nations and for safeguarding its collective security, political and humanitarian mechanisms is crucial in maintaining peace, stability and sustainable development.

The powers and responsibilities of the main organs of the United Nations and the decisions adopted by them cannot be substituted, conditioned or limited by regional and subregional organizations or their conflict-settlement or mediation formats and mechanisms.

The purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations are fundamental constituents of the common rule-based international order; they are universally binding and apply to all crises and conflicts whatever their distinct root causes and nature.

It is unacceptable that armed aggressions against sovereign States and the resulting military occupation and ethnic cleansing of their territories continue, Security Council resolutions notwithstanding.

No solution can be reached which is inconsistent with international law, particularly where fundamental norms are concerned, such as those relating to the obligation of respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States.

We concur with the Secretary-General that in the year of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, the world's leading instrument of shared progress, our common purposes and principles remain as important as ever.

Strict compliance with these purposes and principles and the fulfillment in good faith of the obligations assumed by States under the Charter of the United Nations are of the greatest importance for the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of sustained economic growth, sustainable development, human rights, justice and international law.

Thank you.