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**Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their  
implications for international peace, security  
and development**

**The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan**

**Letter dated 24 December 2019 from the Permanent  
Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to  
the Secretary-General**

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to convey herewith the memorandum entitled “Position of the Republic of Azerbaijan with regard to the peaceful settlement of the conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan” (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 32 and 37, and of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Yashar Aliyev  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative



**Annex to the letter dated 24 December 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Memorandum**

**Position of the Republic of Azerbaijan with regard to the peaceful settlement of the conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

The Republic of Azerbaijan remains committed to the resolution of the conflict by political means within the format of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

The legal and political frameworks for the conflict settlement are laid down in Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), as well as in the relevant documents and decisions of OSCE.

The resolution of the conflict is possible only on the basis of the norms and principles of international law, as enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, in full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders.

Azerbaijan adheres to the step-by-step approach in the settlement of the conflict, which is premised on the Security Council resolutions and the OSCE decisions, in particular the Budapest Summit decision of 1994.

The first step shall be the elimination of the major consequences of the conflict, thus ensuring the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan, to be followed by the return of the forcibly displaced Azerbaijani population to their homes and properties in these territories in safety and dignity, the opening of all communications in the region for mutual use and the rehabilitation and economic development of these territories.

The next stage of the settlement process shall be the elaboration and definition of the status of self-rule for the population of the Nagorno-Karabakh region within Azerbaijan, in accordance with the Constitution and legislation of Azerbaijan. Such a status shall ensure peaceful coexistence of the Armenian and Azerbaijani communities of the region and guarantee full enjoyment by all of human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal and non-discriminatory basis.

The definition of the status shall take place in peaceful conditions through a legitimate process with direct, full and equal participation of the population of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, namely, the Armenian and Azerbaijani communities, and in their interaction with the Government of Azerbaijan exclusively in the framework of a lawful and democratic process.

Azerbaijan considers no political solution to the conflict beyond this framework and participates in the settlement process based on this understanding.

The political settlement of the conflict will create favourable conditions for comprehensive economic development and mutually beneficial cooperation.