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**Seventy-sixth year**

**Culture of peace**

**Prevention of armed conflict**

**Peacebuilding and sustaining peace**

**The rule of law at the national and international levels**

**Letter dated 8 November 2021 from the Permanent Representative  
of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the occasion of 8 November – Victory Day in 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 16, 35, 66 and 85, and of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Yashar Aliyev  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative



## **Annex to the letter dated 8 November 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

### **Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the occasion of 8 November – Victory Day in the Republic of Azerbaijan**

On 8 November 2021, the Republic of Azerbaijan celebrates the Victory Day, which has become a celebration of the strength of our people and of our national pride, and is of exceptional importance for the honour and future development of our State.

As a result of the 44-day Patriotic War, which began on 27 September 2020 in response to a provocation and further military aggression of Armenia, Azerbaijan liberated its lands from occupation and, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council as well as numerous decisions and resolutions of other international organizations, the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders was ensured and the right of about one million Azerbaijani internally displaced persons to live in their native homes was restored.

As a result of military operations that lasted 44 days, under the leadership of the victorious Supreme Commander-in-Chief, President Ilham Aliyev, the heroic Azerbaijan Army liberated more than 300 settlements, including the cities of Jabrayil, Fuzuli, Zangilan, Gubadli and Shusha – the city having a special place in the history and culture of the Azerbaijani people. A Trilateral Statement signed by the leaders of Azerbaijan, Russia and Armenia on 10 November 2020 has brought an end to military operations, and Armenia, recognizing its defeat, withdrew its armed forces from the Kalbajar, Aghdam and Lachin districts. Thus, the conflict was resolved through military-political means.

After the war, Azerbaijan is facing the important task of rebuilding, restoring and demining the liberated territories. At the heart of this work is to ensure the safe and dignified return of Azerbaijani internally displaced persons to their homes, whose fundamental rights have been violated for decades. In this process, which requires time, finances and serious efforts, Azerbaijan is not alone. Friendly and partner countries are participating in the revitalization of the liberated territories. In the coming years, we will witness the return of the first internally displaced persons to their homes.

Azerbaijan has taken appropriate steps to investigate illegal activities, violations of international law and war crimes, including urbicide, culturicide and ecocide, committed by Armenia within the framework of its nearly 30-year policy of aggression, as well as to bring those responsible for these violations to justice. These steps will be continued. The punishment of the perpetrators is of particular importance for ensuring justice and preventing recurrence of such crimes in the future.

Ensuring lasting peace, development and progress is the basis of Azerbaijan's vision for the future. After the elimination of the factor of occupation of its territories, Azerbaijan is ready to normalize relations with Armenia on the basis of strict adherence to the principles of international law, in particular the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of international borders. In order to ensure future peace and security in the region, it is important to fully implement the trilateral statements at this stage, and Azerbaijan expects Armenia to reciprocate the steps taken by Azerbaijan in this direction.

With the end of the conflict, new realities have emerged in the South Caucasus region, and everyone must accept these realities. Armenia must choose between regional cooperation and illegal and unfounded territorial claims against its neighbours. The international community must play a positive role in this regard and call on Armenia to realize that there is no alternative to peace. Attempts to directly or indirectly support revanchism in Armenia and its armament must be stopped.

8 November – Victory Day is a celebration of international law and justice, forming a glorious page in the history of the Azerbaijani people. On this important day, we remember with deep respect and esteem the memory of all our Martyrs who gave their lives for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

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