



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.: General
20 November 2023

Original: English

General Assembly**Seventy-eighth session**

Agenda items 31, 61, 69, 71, 73, 83 and 129

Prevention of armed conflict**Peacebuilding and sustaining peace****Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia
and related intolerance****Promotion and protection of human rights****Report of the International Court of Justice****The rule of law at the national and international levels****The responsibility to protect and the prevention of
genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes
against humanity****Security Council****Seventy-eighth year**

Letter dated 17 November 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan with regard to the order on provisional measures issued by the International Court of Justice on 17 November 2023 in the case concerning *Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Armenia v. 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 31, 61, 69, 71, 73, 83 and 129, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar Aliyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 17 November 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the decision of the International Court of Justice of 17 November 2023

17 November 2023

Azerbaijan took note of the decision on the provisional measures of the International Court of Justice of 17 November 2023, in the *Armenia v. Azerbaijan* case concerning the Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

We welcome the Court's ruling that has reconfirmed Azerbaijan's sovereignty and territorial integrity, rightfully rejecting Armenia's request that challenged Azerbaijan's long-acknowledged and internationally recognized sovereignty over Garabagh. It is also noteworthy that the Court has also rejected the baseless and ludicrous request on the withdrawal of all military and law-enforcement personnel by Azerbaijan from its Garabagh region.

The measures indicated by the Court acknowledge the already declared policy of the Government of Azerbaijan with respect to the Armenian residents of Garabagh. This includes our undertaking to ensure all residents' safety and security, regardless of national or ethnic origin. Azerbaijan has never forced the Armenian residents out of Garabagh and, notwithstanding Azerbaijan's call to stay, it was their decision to relocate to Armenia and other countries. Azerbaijan is committed to uphold the human rights of the Armenian residents of Garabagh on an equal basis with other citizens of Azerbaijan in line with its Constitution and relevant international obligations.

The fact that the Court ordered no measure related to the request by Armenia to facilitate the United Nations agencies access to the Garabagh region and cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross is an acknowledgement of the openness and cooperation extended by Azerbaijan to this end, which essentially nullifies all the accusations against our country.

Azerbaijan protects private property, cultural sites and artefacts as well as registration documents in line with national legislation and international obligations. Therefore, the Court's indication in these areas is also an assertion of the measures Azerbaijan is taking.

The Court equally did not warrant Armenia's request related to Azerbaijan's investigative actions with regard to persons associated with the illegal separatist regime who are detained by Azerbaijan in line with the applicable articles of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan on charges of military aggression, inciting separatism, terrorist acts, etc. Azerbaijan expects that Armenia and all the other sides will cease their interference into the lawful investigative measures.

Azerbaijan takes seriously its obligations under the Convention. We remain committed to upholding those obligations and the rights of all people under international law, and focused on a peaceful and prosperous region.