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Prevention of armed conflict**Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their
implications for international peace, security
and development****The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan****Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia
and related intolerance****Promotion and protection of human rights****The rule of law at the national and international levels****Measures to eliminate international terrorism****Security Council
Seventy-sixth year****Letter dated 17 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of
Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I am writing to reiterate our strongest protest against the continued circulation by Armenia of various papers in the name of the illegal puppet regime that it has installed in the occupied Daghlyq Qarabagh (Upper/Nagorno Karabakh) region of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The recent examples of this are contained in the annexes to the letters from the Permanent Representative of Armenia (see [A/75/733-S/2021/105](#), [A/75/739-S/2021/124](#), [A/75/784-S/2021/190](#) and [A/75/788-S/2021/205](#)).

The regime in question is ultimately nothing other than the product of aggression, racial discrimination, ethnic cleansing and other atrocity crimes committed against Azerbaijanis on racial, ethnic and religious grounds. The papers circulated on its behalf are null and void per se, as they are tantamount to war propaganda, advocating lawlessness and promoting contempt for human rights.

As these papers are circulated in the United Nations, it is pertinent to recall that, in its resolutions [822 \(1993\)](#), [853 \(1993\)](#), [874 \(1993\)](#) and [884 \(1993\)](#), the Security Council condemned the use of force against Azerbaijan and the occupation of its territories and 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 the territorial claims and forcible actions of Armenia, the Security Council confirmed that the Daghlyq



Qarabagh 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. The relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the decisions and documents adopted by other international organizations are framed along the same lines.

In its leading judgment of 16 June 2015 in the case of *Chiragov and Others v. Armenia*, the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights established that Armenia exercised effective control over the Daghylyq Qarabagh region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan and thus was responsible for violations of international law in those territories. The conclusion reached was that:

- The Republic of Armenia, “through its military presence and the provision of military equipment and expertise, has been significantly involved in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict from an early date”.
- “This military support has been – and continues to be – decisive for the conquest of and continued control over the territories in issue”.
- The regime in those territories survives “by virtue of the military, political, financial and other support given to it by Armenia which, consequently, exercises effective control over Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding territories”.¹

It is notable that Armenia itself has more than once presented views and made pronouncements that are in clear contradiction with the objectives behind its attempts to advertise the puppet regime.

Thus, Armenia not only has not denounced the resolution of its Supreme Soviet on the annexation of Daghylyq Qarabagh of 1 December 1989, but also has directly mentioned it in its Declaration of Independence of 23 August 1990. Furthermore, the reference to the said Declaration as one that enshrines “the fundamental principles of the Armenian statehood and nationwide objectives” is contained in the preamble to the Constitution of Armenia. Among the relatively recent examples is the statement made by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan of Armenia on 5 August 2019, declaring the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan – Daghylyq Qarabagh – part of Armenia. In the same vein, the voluntary national review report of Armenia on the Sustainable Development Goals, submitted to the United Nations in July 2020, included a map displaying Daghylyq Qarabagh and other occupied districts of Azerbaijan in the same colour as Armenia itself.²

At the same time, Armenia has circulated over 70 documents under the agenda item of the General Assembly, entitled “The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan”, thus admitting the fact of the occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan.

The references in Armenia’s communications to the localities within the internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan under different fake names are equally invalid, as they clearly violate international law and the Constitution and legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan. These names are pure fiction and exist only in the imagination of Armenian officials. The sovereignty of the Republic of

¹ *Chiragov and Others v. Armenia*, App. No. 13216/05, ECtHR (Grand Chamber), 16 June 2015, paras. 180 and 186.

² See [A/74/946-S/2020/704](#) (13 July 2020) and [A/75/244-S/2020/925](#) (21 September 2020).

Azerbaijan over these localities is unquestionable. The historical and legal facts are clear in that regard.³

As a result of the counteroffensive operation undertaken and successfully accomplished by the armed forces of Azerbaijan in response to yet another act of aggression committed by Armenia on 27 September 2020, some 10,000 km² of the territory of Azerbaijan were liberated from occupation.

The statement of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and the President of the Russian Federation, signed on 9 November 2020, has put an end to the almost three-decades-old armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan and set agreed parameters for establishing durable peace in the region.⁴

On 11 January 2021, the leaders of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia and the Russian Federation signed another joint statement aimed at implementing a number of practical steps to remove obstacles to economic and transport links in the region.

The new situation paves the way for hundreds of thousands of displaced persons to exercise their right to a safe and dignified return to their places of origin and, despite the devastating consequences of the war, offers a unique opportunity and real prospects for building peace, consolidating stability, restoring peaceful coexistence, advancing the reconciliation agenda and investing in economic development and cooperation.

Azerbaijan is a multi-ethnic country and all its citizens and residents, including Armenians, are entitled to the full enjoyment of human rights and freedoms on an equal and non-discriminatory basis, in accordance with the Constitution and legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Facing serious socioeconomic challenges and high levels of migration of its citizens from the country, Armenia would definitely benefit from the normalization of inter-State relations with Azerbaijan based on mutual recognition and respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity within their internationally recognized borders.

However, by continuing to illegally deploy its armed personnel to the territory of Azerbaijan, refusing to release information regarding the minefields in the liberated areas, circulating various papers in the name of the remnants of the illegal puppet regime and the non-existent entity, referencing the localities of the Republic of Azerbaijan with fabricated names and denying its responsibility for numerous war crimes committed during the conflict, Armenia clearly demonstrates its unwillingness to comply with its international obligations and refrain from confrontational policy.

Azerbaijan considers any kind of revanchist propaganda and revisionist claims by Armenia as an attempt to undermine the trilateral agreement of 9 November 2020, an infringement upon the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and a threat to the rights and legitimate interests of its people, with all the ensuing consequences under international law, for which Armenia will bear full responsibility.

³ See, for example, the identical letters dated 20 September 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council, [A/74/450-S/2019/762](#); Malcolm N. Shaw and Naomi Hart, "Report on the fundamental norm of the territorial integrity of States and the right to self-determination in the light of Armenia's revisionist claims", [A/74/961-S/2020/729](#) (22 July 2020), annex, pp. 42–49, paras. 154–178.

⁴ See [S/2020/1104](#) (11 November 2020), annex.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 35, 40, 70, 72, 86 and 114, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
