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Letter dated 21 March 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to our communication dated 27 February 2023 ([A/77/774-S/2023/145](#)), I have the honour to transmit to you a letter from Jeyhun Bayramov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, with regard to Armenia's ongoing attempts to mislead the international community as to its responsibility for continued planting of landmines and booby traps targeting Azerbaijani civilians in the sovereign territory 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 30, 57, 58, 66, 68, 70, 73, 84, 99 and 132, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar Aliyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 21 March 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Letter dated 18 March 2023 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan addressed to the Secretary-General

I write with regard to the order on provisional measures issued by the International Court of Justice on 22 February 2023 in the case concerning *Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Azerbaijan v. Armenia)* and with reference to the letter from the Permanent Representative of Armenia dated 22 February 2023 annexing the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, as well as to my prior letter dated 27 February 2023.

Armenia continues to purposefully mislead the international community as to its production and continued planting of landmines and booby traps targeting Azerbaijani civilians in Azerbaijan's sovereign territory. For years, Armenia has insisted that it does not even manufacture landmines, including its representation before the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in October 2022 that it is "definitely not among" the countries that produce landmines. Before the International Court of Justice, however, Armenia did not contest the evidence presented by Azerbaijan that Armenia has in fact for years licensed, repeatedly reauthorized and acquired landmines produced by an Armenian weapons contractor based in Yerevan. Nor did Armenia refute the evidence presented by Azerbaijan that over 2,700 of these Armenian-produced landmines have been laid on Azerbaijan's territory since the signing of the trilateral statement, instead arguing that the landmines were planted for "defensive purposes".

Contrary to Armenia's assertions, the Court's finding that Armenia's planting of landmines and booby traps did not warrant provisional measures under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in no way rejects the facts presented by Azerbaijan regarding Armenia's landmines as "fake". These facts remain uncontested and reveal that Armenia has for years been deceiving and manipulating the international community with regard to its production and use of landmines. Instead, the Court considered the matter exclusively within the framework of racial discrimination, as required under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The Court also reaffirmed that its order "in no way prejudices" the merits of Azerbaijan's case.

Furthermore, Armenia remains obligated under the trilateral statement and otherwise under international law not to illegally transport landmines and other explosive devices into Azerbaijan's territory and deploy them in a manner that unlawfully targets civilians. Since the signing of the trilateral statement in November 2020, 286 Azerbaijanis, including 130 civilians, have been either injured or killed by landmines planted on Azerbaijan's territory.

Azerbaijan calls on the international community to urge Armenia to comply with its international obligations and put an end to the continued murder and maiming of Azerbaijanis by Armenian-made landmines and other explosive devices.

We count on the good offices bestowed on you as the Secretary-General in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as in relevant conventions in the field of international humanitarian law and disarmament, to make Armenia fulfil its international obligation relating to providing information about the location, quantity, type and characteristics of landmines and any other explosive devices in the territory of Azerbaijan and immediately ceasing and desisting from any further efforts to plant landmines therein.

(Signed) Jeyhun **Bayramov**
