



# General Assembly Security Council

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**General Assembly  
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Agenda items 30, 58, 66, 68, 84 and 132

**Prevention of armed conflict**

**Peacebuilding and sustaining peace**

**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**

**The responsibility to protect and the prevention of  
genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes  
against humanity**

**Security Council  
Seventy-eighth year**

## **Letter dated 24 April 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan on the establishment of the border checkpoint by the Republic of Azerbaijan at the starting point of the Lachin-Khankandi road and the commentary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan to the provocative, groundless and unacceptable statement made in that regard by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia (see annexes).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 30, 58, 66, 68, 84 and 132, and of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Yashar Aliyev  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative



**Annex I to the letter dated 24 April 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the establishment of the border checkpoint by the Republic of Azerbaijan at the starting point of the Lachin-Khankandi road**

**23 April 2023**

The Government of Azerbaijan, taking into account the continued systematic and large-scale misuse of the Lachin-Khankandi road for illicit purposes by the Armenian side contrary to the Trilateral Statement of November 10, 2020, and the resulting security threats, took appropriate measures to establish control at the starting point of the road on the border between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Over the past two and half years since the signing of the Trilateral Statement, the Azerbaijani side has consistently called attention to large-scale abuse of the Lachin road by Armenia. This includes the rotation of personnel of Armenian armed forces that continue to be illegally stationed in the territory of Azerbaijan, the transfer of weapons and ammunition, entrance of terrorists, as well as illicit trafficking of natural resources and cultural property.

Transportation of landmines through the Lachin road, followed by their subsequent planting on the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan, has particularly grave consequences. Since August 2022, more than 2700 anti-personnel landmine produced in Armenia in 2021 have already been detected in the Lachin and Kalbajar districts of Azerbaijan. Evidently, those landmines have been transported to the territory of Azerbaijan through the Lachin road in a blatant violation of the Trilateral Statement. Just recently, on April 22, 2023, a military truck of Azerbaijan's Army was exploded hitting a 2021-production-landmine planted by Armenians, with 3 of our servicemen injured. Since the end of the war 294 Azerbaijanis became the landmine victims.

Moreover, on April 22, surveillance cameras of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan recorded the entrance to the territory of Azerbaijan of two military-purpose container houses and convoy of military vehicles of Armenia, contrary to the Trilateral Statement and the norms and principles of international law. Later, at the beginning of the Lachin-Khankendi road, the placement of military-purpose container houses and the construction of military infrastructure by Armenia were observed at the point closest to the territory of Azerbaijan.

In light of these threats and provocations, the establishment of a border control mechanism at the starting point of the Lachin road will serve to transparency over the movement along the road, the rule of law, and thus ensure the security and safety of the movement.

Providing border security, as well as ensuring safe traffic on the road, is the prerogative of the Government of Azerbaijan, and an essential prerequisite for the national security, State sovereignty and rule of law.

In line with obligations under the Trilateral Statement, in the framework of this measure of security guarantee by the Republic of Azerbaijan for the movement of citizens, vehicles and cargo through the Lachin road, proper conditions will be ensured for the transparent and regulated passage of Armenian residents living in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan from this checkpoint to Armenia and Azerbaijan in both directions.

The said control mechanism shall be implemented in interaction with the Russian peacekeeping force.

The Azerbaijani side declares its readiness to cooperation with a view to ensuring safe and transparent control regime at the border with Armenia.

**Annex II to the letter dated 24 April 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Commentary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia on the establishment of the border checkpoint by Azerbaijan at the starting point of the Lachin-Khankandi road**

**23 April 2023**

We strongly reject the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia dated April 23, 2023, on the measures taken by Azerbaijan to establish a border checkpoint at the starting point of the Lachin-Khankandi road on the Azerbaijan-Armenia border.

The statement of the Foreign Ministry of Armenia is another attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of Azerbaijan and is unacceptable. Besides not contributing to peace and stability in the region, such statements by the Armenian side, interfering in the internal affairs of Azerbaijan, lead to increase of tension.

The legitimate decision and step by Azerbaijan to establish a border checkpoint in its sovereign territory is in line with all the principles and norms of international law. It is known that as a result of the meetings in Prague and Sochi, to which the Armenian side often refers, Armenia declared its recognition of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. Deriving from this, Armenia must accept and respect the right of Azerbaijan to ensure control over the entry to and exit from its territory.

The establishment of this checkpoint is a legitimate and national security decision adopted in the situation when, following the 44-day Patriotic War of 2020 and contrary to the provisions of the Trilateral Statement, the Armenian side still continues military provocations against Azerbaijan, the road is used for illegal activities, transportation of weapons, ammunition and landmines, as well as the rotation of Armenia's servicemen. At the same time, on April 22, the transfer of two military-purpose container houses and convoy of military vehicles of Armenia to the territory of Azerbaijan and the activities of Armenia to build a military infrastructure at the nearest point to the territory of Azerbaijan at the starting point of the Lachin-Khankandi road were the factors that led to moving forward with this decision.

Regarding the unfounded claim that Azerbaijan violated the obligations under the Trilateral Statement, we would like to remind the Armenian side that the Armenian leadership, at the highest level, confirmed that this country was not given any function by the Trilateral Statement on the regulation of the traffic on the Lachin road. Against this background, it is illogical and contrary to the stated position that the Foreign Ministry of Armenia, as a party to the Trilateral Statement, calls the step taken by Azerbaijan unacceptable. According to the Trilateral Statement, Azerbaijan has the obligation to guarantee the security of the movement of citizens, vehicles and cargo through the Lachin-Khankandi road. This obligation also includes the prevention of misuse of the Lachin road. Also, the establishment of a border checkpoint at the starting point of the road does not create changes in the traffic regime on the road.

Ensuring the border security, which is beyond the scope of the Trilateral Statement, is a prerogative of the Government of Azerbaijan, and a necessary condition for national security, State sovereignty, and the rule of law.

The absurd claim that the establishment of the border checkpoint is aimed at “ethnic cleansing” is unfounded and unacceptable. We reiterate that there are appropriate conditions for transparent, safe and orderly passage of local Armenian residents of the Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan in both directions.

This statement by the Foreign Ministry of Armenia, which has boycotted the peace talks, testifies to its intention to use this event as a pretext to undermine efforts to resume negotiations.

We recommend the Armenian side to abandon such provocations, to take a responsible approach to the efforts establishing relations with Azerbaijan on the basis of the principles such as the territorial integrity and sovereignty of both countries, and to take a constructive position instead of hindering peace negotiations under various pretexts. At the same time, we call on Armenia to put an end to its attempts to make the international community an instrument for its smear campaign, as well as to distort the well-known decision of the International Court of Justice for this purpose.

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