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Prevention of armed conflict

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Promotion and protection of human rights

Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts

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

Letter dated 9 June 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In connection with the letter dated 31 May 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia (A/77/904-S/2023/397), which we resolutely and categorically reject as false and misleading, I would like to bring to your attention the following.

The continued circulation by Armenia of worthless papers on behalf of a fictitious entity, in an attempt to revive the criminal regime it once installed in the formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan, and regular references in its communications and statements to the localities within Azerbaijan with invalid or fabricated names, constitute an evident encroachment on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, profound contempt for the Charter of the United Nations and international law and a clear deviation from the principles agreed at the summit-level meetings between Armenia and Azerbaijan in Prague, Sochi and Brussels on 6 and 31 October 2022 and 14 May 2023, respectively.

Such provocative letters of Armenia are a further testament to the immutability of its longstanding racist policy of atrocities, ethnic cleansing and cultural erasure widely practiced in the formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan. All Azerbaijani settlements were renamed also throughout Armenia itself and the Azerbaijani cultural





and historical heritage was deliberately and consistently eradicated there, following the expulsion of more than 200,000 Azerbaijanis from their ancestral lands in Armenia in the late 1980s.

As to the legal place names of the Republic of Azerbaijan, they are contained in our most recent national report to the 2023 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. In addition, the annex to the report provides the list of 125 geographical names identified by the State Agency for Geodesy and Cartography of Azerbaijan as falsified by Armenia. 2

Armenia has neither legal, nor political or moral grounds to make any statements or comments concerning the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan or the matters falling within my country's exclusive rights, competence and responsibilities. Instead, Armenia must take serious care of its own international obligations, abandon its territorial claims, completely withdraw its armed forces from the territory of Azerbaijan, put an end to mine terrorism, shed light on the fate of about 4,000 missing Azerbaijanis, redress the harm caused to Azerbaijan by its aggression and occupation and ensure the safe and dignified return of Azerbaijanis to their homeland in Iravan, Gafan, Meghri, Basarkechar, Hamamli, Zangibasar, Vedi and other settlements throughout Armenia.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 30, 58, 66, 68, 73, 84 and 132, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar Aliyev Ambassador Permanent Representative

2/2 23-11194

¹ See https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/documents/GEGN.2_ 2023_140_CRP140.pdf.

² See https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/documents/GEGN.2_2023_140_CRP140_Annex%201.pdf. See also the statement by the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan at the 2023 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in connection with the report submitted by the Republic of Armenia, 4 May 2023, available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/documents/item4a_Azerbaijan_statement.pdf.