



# General Assembly Security Council

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

**Security Council**  
**Seventy-eighth year**

**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**

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

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 9 August 2023 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Jeyhun Bayramov, regarding the continued attempts by Armenia to mislead and manipulate the international community about the situation with respect to the part of the Garabagh region of Azerbaijan where the Russian peacekeeping contingent has been temporarily deployed (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, 58, 66, 68, 84 and 132, and of the Security Council.

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



## **Annex to the letter dated 9 August 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

### **Letter dated 9 August 2023 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan addressed to the Secretary-General**

In view of the continued attempts by Armenia to mislead and manipulate the international community, I am writing to communicate the following as regards the situation with respect to the part of the Garabagh region of Azerbaijan where the Russian peacekeeping contingent has been temporarily deployed.

First and foremost, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, I wish to reiterate our unwavering dedication to international humanitarian law and human rights law.

In this regard, I categorically reject all the unfounded and groundless allegations on the existence of a “blockade” or “humanitarian crises” as propagated by Armenia, some of which have also been echoed to some extent in the statements of the senior officials of international organizations. It is imperative to underscore that the terms “blockade” and “humanitarian crises” invoked by Armenia serve as a blatant manifestation of its extensive propaganda and discrediting campaign against Azerbaijan.

It is crucial to emphasize that the Garabagh region is an internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan, and ethnic Armenians living there are the residents of Azerbaijan. Any reckless reference to this region as “Nagorno-Karabakh” contradicts the principles of Azerbaijan’s territorial integrity, sovereignty and established national legislation, as well as the normative framework developed by the United Nations with respect to the use of geographic names. This former Soviet appellation bears no legal or territorial relevance within Azerbaijan’s sovereign boundaries.

Regarding the so-called “Lachin Corridor”, it is unequivocally a road situated within the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan. It bears noting that this route possesses no extraterritorial status. Azerbaijan, in adherence to its commitments under the trilateral statement of 10 November 2020, has maintained the practice of allowing movement along this road. However, Armenia has consistently exploited this route, envisaged exclusively for humanitarian purposes, for rotation of its close to 10,000-strong armed groups that it illegally maintains in the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan, transfer of weaponry, ammunition, landmines into and unlawfully extracted minerals from Azerbaijan’s territory.

On 23 April 2023, Azerbaijan, in exercise of its inherent right to safeguard its sovereignty and security, established a border checkpoint at the beginning of the Lachin road on the Armenia-Azerbaijan State border.

It is of paramount importance to refute any claims that suggest the “illegality” of the aforementioned border checkpoint or its purported obstruction to cross-border movement. The International Court of Justice, through its order of 6 July 2023, unanimously rejected Armenia’s appeal for Azerbaijan to withdraw its personnel from the Lachin road. The International Court’s judgment conclusively dismissed any insinuation, as implied by Armenia, that the “Lachin” border checkpoint on the Azerbaijan-Armenia border hampers traffic on the Lachin road or that its existence is unlawful and thus warrants removal. The detailed information on this decision was comprehensively communicated in my previous letter dated 21 July 2023 addressed

to you and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council ([A/77/974-S/2023/546](#)).

Contrary to any misconceptions, the civilian movement from the Garabagh region of Azerbaijan to Armenia has experienced a noteworthy increase after establishment of the border checkpoint. Remarkably, more than 2,000 individuals passed through the border checkpoint until 15 June 2023. On that day, traffic across the border checkpoint came to an abrupt halt due to the assault by Armenian armed forces on Azerbaijani border guards and accompanying Russian Federation peacekeeping forces. Regrettably, this attack resulted in severe injury to an Azerbaijani border guard. Amid the acute security threat, and pending an investigation of the attack, traffic across the border checkpoint was temporally suspended.

It is critical to note that the armed provocation transpired concurrently with the presence of a convoy of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the vicinity of the border checkpoint. ICRC was engaged in a pre-planned operation to accompany a group of Armenian residents from the Garabagh region who were travelling to Armenia for medical purposes. The attack on 15 June not only targeted Azerbaijani border servicemen but also posed a direct threat to ICRC staff and civilians passing through the checkpoint, with the intention of undermining successful operation of the road.

Armenia, despite accepting responsibility for this armed attack, swiftly resorted to resurrecting its false narrative that Azerbaijan was intentionally blocking the Lachin road. This stance is further exacerbated by Armenia's refusal to provide guarantees against future incidents of a similar nature, effectively impeding the full resumption of the border checkpoint's operation. Azerbaijan, in unwavering fashion, has repeatedly called upon Armenia to cooperate through border and customs institutions, fostering a seamless and secure cross-border movement of individuals, cargo and services. It is lamentable that these appeals have remained unanswered.

In the face of Armenia's obstinacy, Azerbaijan continues to facilitate the passage of local Armenian residents to Armenia for urgent medical purposes. On average, 25 to 30 individuals pass through the checkpoint for medical purposes. This continues notwithstanding Armenia's reckless attempts to exploit ICRC convoys to smuggle certain goods of dual use to supply its illegal armed groups in Azerbaijan. This brazen act undermining the humanitarian mandate and reputation of ICRC has been publicly acknowledged by the organization.

In light of Armenia's intransigence, Azerbaijan has endeavoured to collaborate with ICRC to use the alternative and shorter routes, such as the northern path to Khankendi via Aghdam, to transport humanitarian supplies to the Garabagh region from other parts of Azerbaijan. In this context, it is essential to highlight that the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, in his public remarks following the meeting between President Aliyev and Prime Minister Pashinyan in Brussels, encouraged the use of the Aghdam-Khankendi route as an important component in ensuring that the essential needs of the Garabagh residents are adequately met.

Armenia, however, through the unlawful subordinate regime that it installed in the territory of Azerbaijan, continues to deny ICRC's delivery of assistance. Armenia is orchestrating so-called public protests against the use of alternative routes, blocking them to prevent the delivery of cargo and services. This behaviour is propelled by a recklessly instrumentalized agenda of ethnic and racial hatred, thereby subverting the very essence of humanitarian assistance proposed by Azerbaijan to its own population in the Garabagh region.

I wish to bring to your attention another critical concern marked by systematic ethnic hatred towards Azerbaijanis. Over the course of three decades, Azerbaijan has borne the brunt of Armenia's aggressive actions, enduring grave injustices and State-sponsored animosity aimed at the people of Azerbaijan, even its youngest members. Armenia's occupation of Azerbaijani territories for nearly 30 years witnessed acts of ethnic cleansing, war crimes and forcible displacement of hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijanis, including vulnerable children, elderly individuals and women. Armenia's aggression led to the tragic deprivation of essential rights for tens of thousands of children in Azerbaijan, including the right to life, education, safety, protection and health.

This arbitrary denial of humanitarian aid from Azerbaijan on the basis of an ethnically biased narrative is yet another instance highlighting Armenia's entrenched policy. This action starkly breaches international humanitarian law and underscores Armenia's calculated manoeuvres, exposing its manipulation of humanitarian efforts. Consequently, these tactics discredit any credibility attributed to claims of a so-called "blockade".

It is of particular significance to underline that such pursuits by Armenia transpire at a moment when a historic opportunity for the eventual normalization of relations between the two countries emerges after a 30-year-long bloody conflict. In recent months, we have promoted significant intensification of a normalization process with the active engagement of international partners. These diplomatic dialogues have proven instrumental in narrowing differences and achieving tangible progress on several articles of the future bilateral agreement, aimed at establishing a lasting peace and inter-State relations.

Concurrently, Armenia's recurrent pattern of unconstructive behaviour also seeks to obstruct Azerbaijan's efforts to reintegrate the ethnic Armenian residents of the Garabagh region as equal citizens within its political, legal and socioeconomic framework. Azerbaijan guarantees to uphold all relevant rights and freedoms enshrined in its Constitution and the international mechanisms to which it is a signatory.

The Government of Azerbaijan is ready to provide assurances of the well-being of ethnic Armenians residing within its borders as a part of the Azerbaijani population. However, Armenia, driven by a revanchist mindset, and in escape from commitments under the normalization process, intends to renew crises through interference with internal affairs of Azerbaijan, the propagation of ethnic hatred, falsification of facts, deception and misleading narratives that insinuate the existence of a "blockade" and "humanitarian crises". A viable solution, proposed by Azerbaijan, is there and stands ready for implementation through utilization of the Aghdam-Khankendi road. Concurrently, the Lachin road will continue to function in accordance with the sovereignty and national legislation of Azerbaijan.

At this critical juncture, the international community bears a heightened responsibility to steadfastly reject Armenia's attempts at manipulation and misinformation. Instead of further emboldening Armenia with biased and one-sided statements and actions, it is incumbent upon the international community to force Armenia to eventually cease its actions undermining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, refrain from interfering with its internal affairs and, instead, actively participate in good faith in negotiations concerning post-conflict normalization.

(Signed) Jeyhun **Bayramov**