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**General Assembly
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Agenda items 32, 60, 61, 69, 71, 84 and 132

Prevention of armed conflict

**Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for
Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and
displaced persons and humanitarian questions**

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
Eightieth year**

Letter dated 19 March 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, I have the honour to submit herewith the appeal to the international community that was adopted at the international online conference entitled “Displacement and Women”, organized by the Western Azerbaijan Community Women Council on 1 March 2025 and attended by 50 women activists from 12 countries (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 32, 60, 61, 69, 71, 84 and 132, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tofiq **Musayev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 19 March 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Appeal to the international community, adopted at the international online conference entitled “Displacement and Women”, organized by the Western Azerbaijan Community Women Council on 1 March 2025

We, the participants gathered on this day, 1 March 2025, on the eve of 8 March – International Women’s Day, at the International Online Conference titled “Displacement and Women,” organized by the Western Azerbaijan Community Women Council, solemnly adopt this appeal to the international community. We seek to bring global attention to the enduring suffering of Azerbaijanis forcibly expelled from their ancestral homes in Armenia, with particular emphasis on the profound impact of displacement on women and children. Herein, we articulate our demands for justice, right to peaceful return, the preservation of our cultural heritage, and support for women in their safe and dignified return to and reintegration in our homeland, in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and general norms and principles of international law.

Condemning the historical injustice suffered by Western Azerbaijanis, who once formed the majority in Armenia but were systematically and totally expelled through multiple waves of violent ethnic cleansing, the most recent occurring between 1987 and 1991;

Acknowledging the painful burden borne by women and children, who have endured the loss of homes, livelihoods, and communal ties, resulting in deep trauma and disruption of familial and cultural continuity;

Noting with grave concern the destruction by Armenia’s actions of Azerbaijani cultural heritage, including the revered art of carpet weaving – a tradition predominantly upheld by women in Western Azerbaijan and inscribed on UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2010;

Affirming that the loss of such heritage constitutes not only a cultural tragedy but also a violation of the rights of displaced Azerbaijanis to their identity and legacy;

Recalling the UNSCR 1325, which calls for the addressing adverse impact of conflicts on women, and inclusion of women in return and reintegration efforts;

Referring to the relevant Sustainable Development Goals that serve to establish justice and peace, eliminate violence against women, and enhance their role in socio-economic development

We hereby appeal to the international community to:

1. *Recognize* urgently as a priority task the issue of Azerbaijanis expelled from Armenia and provide unequivocal support for their safe and dignified return to their ancestral homes, as enshrined in international human rights conventions;
2. *Adopt measures*, in line with UNSCR 1325, to support displaced Azerbaijani women in the processes of return and reintegration, ensuring access to social and economic opportunities upon return;
3. *Assist in* preserving and reviving our intangible cultural heritage, particularly the art of carpet weaving, through programs providing displaced Western Azerbaijani women with tools, training, and spaces to sustain this tradition upon return, safeguarding our cultural identity for future generations;

4. *Make concerted efforts* – through diplomatic advocacy, humanitarian aid, and technical cooperation – to address the legacy of displacement and facilitate the restoration of justice for Azerbaijanis, with needs of women and children put as priority.

We **express** our resolute support for the actions of the Government of Azerbaijan in alleviating the plight of former internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees from Armenia, commending the Great Return Program for former IDPs and the reconstruction program in the territories liberated from Armenia’s three-decade occupation;

We **commend** the Government of Azerbaijan for its active international humanitarian outreach, which plays a vital role in easing the hardships of women and children;

We **resolve** that the Western Azerbaijan Community Women Council shall continue tirelessly advocating for the rights of our people, amplifying the voices of displaced Western Azerbaijani women and children, and fostering a future where our community thrive again in our rightful homeland;

We **resolve further** that this appeal be disseminated widely to governments, international organizations, and civil society, with the earnest expectation of solidarity and action to help to rectify the enduring consequences of our displacement.

Having adopted this appeal unanimously at the International Online Conference titled “Displacement and Women,” organized by the Western Azerbaijan Community Women Council, on 1 March 2025, we **stand united** in our pursuit of justice, dignity, and peace.

Western Azerbaijan Community Women Council
