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Agenda items 18, 30, 57, 58, 64, 66, 68, 73, 84, 99 and 132

Sustainable development**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**Promotion and protection of the rights of children**

**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

General and complete disarmament

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

Security Council**Seventy-seventh year**

Letter dated 28 November 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from Jeyhun Bayramov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in connection with the ongoing contamination of the territories of Azerbaijan by Armenia with landmines and other explosives, in clear violation of international law, the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the statement of 10 November 2020 (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 18, 30, 57, 58, 64, 66, 68, 73, 84, 99 and 132, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar Aliyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 28 November 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Letter dated 28 November 2022 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to my previous letters, I am writing once again to draw your attention to Armenia's continuous contamination of territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan with landmines and other explosives.

Despite our consistent calls, and recklessly disregarding the rising humanitarian toll on an almost daily basis, Armenia not only refuses to share full and accurate information on minefields, but also, on the contrary, illegally transfers and plants new landmines at a massive scale in the territory of Azerbaijan.

Recently, 350 PMN-E-type anti-personnel landmines of 2021 production of Armenia were found in the course of humanitarian demining operations in the northern direction of Saribaba height of the Shusha region.

This is only a portion of the total amount of 2,728 Armenian-produced landmines discovered in sovereign territories of Azerbaijan since August of this year. All of them were produced in Armenia in 2021 and thus have been planted by Armenia after it undertook commitments under the trilateral statement of 10 November 2020 to cease all its military activities against Azerbaijan.

Apart from that, booby traps and "surprise" mines were also discovered in the city of Lachin and the Zabukh and Sus villages, which returned to the sovereign control of the Republic of Azerbaijan upon the completion of the new Lachin road under the above-referred trilateral statement.

The above-mentioned constitute blatant violations by Armenia of international law and its specific commitments under the trilateral statement, as these vividly demonstrate that Armenia has not ceased military activity against Azerbaijan, continues to keep elements of its armed forces in the sovereign territories of Azerbaijan and misuses the Lachin road, which was envisaged for only humanitarian purposes, to continue hostilities against Azerbaijan, including by the transfer of landmines.

The planting of mines by Armenia takes place at a time when Azerbaijan is facing enormous challenges to clear and rehabilitate its territories liberated from the 30-year-long Armenian occupation and finally enable hundreds of thousands of displaced persons to finally exercise their right to return to their homes.

Apart from being a breach of peace and a war crime in itself, the continued planting of landmines after the cessation of hostilities cannot but undermine efforts for reconciliation after an almost 30-year-long bloody conflict. It demonstrates the intention of Armenia to inflict as much human cost as possible on Azerbaijan on the basis of ethnic and religious hatred and to prevent Azerbaijanis from returning to the territories where Armenia had conducted horrific ethnic cleansing.

Since the signing of the 10 November 2020 trilateral statement, 268 Azerbaijanis have been victims of mine explosions, with 44 killed and 224 wounded, among them 9 children and youth, 1 woman and 3 media representatives.

Further planting mines obstructs the goal of achieving lasting peace and increases the suffering of civilians.

As the end of the 30-year-long armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan presents a historic opportunity for both countries to leave the tragic past behind and move towards peaceful co-existence based on good neighbourliness, the role of the international community is ever more critical to ensure that this chance is not missed.

The soonest withdrawal of all Armenian armed formations from the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan and the cessation of all hostilities, including further planting landmines and abandoning all activities and warmongering rhetoric targeting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, are of vital importance at this critical juncture.

I also take this opportunity to renew my call upon you to render support in mobilizing international assistance for Azerbaijan in coping with the serious threat emanating from the massive, indiscriminate and apparently continued mine contamination.

(Signed) Jeyhun **Bayramov**

Enclosure*

350 PMN-E anti-personnel detected on 21 November 2022 in Saribaba height of the Shusha region of Azerbaijan

Photo 1: Armenia-produced anti-personnel landmines

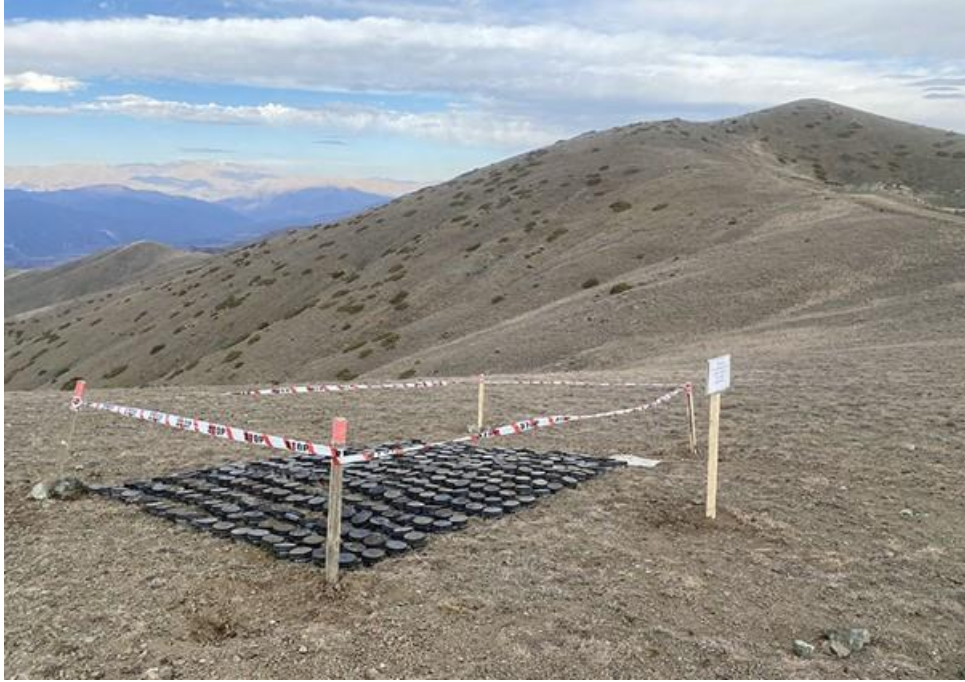


Photo 2: The practices of Armenia-produced anti-personnel landmines



* Circulated in the language of submission only.

Photos 3–4: Landmines produced in Armenia in 2021, found in Saribaba height



Photos 5–6: Clearance of minefields from Armenia-produced landmines



Photo 7: Azerbaijani sapper detecting Armenia-produced landmine

