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**General Assembly**  
**Seventy-eighth session**  
Agenda items 31, 61, 69, 71, 83, 99 and 129

**Security Council**  
**Seventy-ninth 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**

**General and complete disarmament**

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

**Letter dated 4 April 2024 from the Permanent Representative of  
Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the occasion of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (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 31, 61, 69, 71, 83, 99 and 129, and of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Yashar Aliyev  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative



## **Annex to the letter dated 4 April 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

### **Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 4 April – International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action**

4 April is observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

The Republic of Azerbaijan, which suffered from the landmine threat with many of its citizens who became landmine victims both throughout the almost 30-year military occupation of its territories by Armenia and in the current post-conflict period, emphasizes the importance of seriously addressing this threat.

The ongoing landmine threat posed by Armenia even in the post-conflict period remains a source of enormous danger to the lives and health of our citizens, along with impeding the restoration and reconstruction works in the region and the return of former internally displaced persons to their lands.

Even after the end of the 44-day Patriotic War and the conflict, Armenia, contrary to its obligations, misused the Lachin road for illegal purposes, including by continuing the landmine threat. This fact was confirmed in 2022 when more than 2,700 anti-personnel landmines produced in Armenia in 2021 were revealed in the Lachin and Kalbajar districts. Following the counter-terrorism measures in September 2023, the detection of over 500,000 landmines planted in the territories of Azerbaijan where the Russian peacekeeping contingent was temporarily deployed and along the perimeters of these territories is a fact demonstrating the scale of this threat. At the same time, it has proved that the statements about the non-production and non-export of landmines by Armenia over the past decades were completely unfounded.

In the post-conflict period, a total of 350 Azerbaijanis became landmine victims as a result of mine explosions that occurred almost daily due to Armenia's ongoing landmine threat. Among them, 65 persons lost their lives, including 50 civilians and 15 military personnel.

The geography of landmine incidents that have occurred so far, the fact that most of them have taken place outside the former contact line, particularly in places where civilian facilities, residential areas and cemeteries are located, proves that Armenia's landmine threat has been purposefully aimed at causing high casualties among the civilian population. This is another manifestation of the existing ethnic hatred and intolerance of Armenia against Azerbaijanis. Despite our repeated calls on Armenia to provide the maps of the minefields to put an end to this threat, this country has long denied the existence of such maps at all. However, when the information was ultimately presented as a result of the pressure from the international community, it covered a small part of the minefields and its reliability was only 25 per cent. More than 55 per cent of recent landmine incidents occurred outside the areas covered by the information provided.

The behaviour of Armenia in relation to the landmine threat is another setback to the peace and confidence-building measures taken during the post-conflict period in the region.

On 4 April, the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, Azerbaijan once again calls on the international community to take consistent measures to condemn the landmine threat posed by Armenia, ensure the submission of the landmine maps by this country and support the elimination of the landmine threat in Azerbaijan.

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