

**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
14 October 2024

Original: English

**General Assembly
Seventy-ninth session**
Agenda items 32, 61, 71 and 84**Security Council
Seventy-ninth year****Prevention of armed conflict****Peacebuilding and sustaining peace****Promotion and protection of human rights****The rule of law at the national and international levels****Letter dated 14 October 2024 from the Permanent Representative of
Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to submit herewith the declaration of the International Conference on “Addressing the Problem of Missing Persons: Upholding ‘the Right to Know’ for the Families”, jointly organized by the State Commission on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the International Committee of the Red Cross on 2 and 3 October 2024 in the Republic of Azerbaijan (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, 61, 71 and 84, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar T. Aliyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 14 October 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration of the International Conference on “Addressing the Problem of Missing Persons: Upholding ‘the Right to Know’ for the Families”, 2 and 3 October 2024, Azerbaijan

We, the participants of the International Conference on “Addressing the Problem of Missing Persons: Upholding ‘the Right to Know’ for the Families” declare the following:

Guided by the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of war victims and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977, as well as other relevant documents and resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations,

Expressing grave concern about the grievance suffering inflicted on the families as a result of the on-going situation of not knowing the whereabouts of their missing relatives;

Reaffirming the right of families to know the fate of the missing persons consistent with international humanitarian law and human rights law;

Underlying the importance of the resolution of cases of missing persons for confidence building and reconciliation as well as establishment of a sustainable peace;

Recalling the obligations of States to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law;

Taking into account the contribution of the international conferences held in Baku on raising awareness of the problem of missing persons;

1. Urge parties to armed conflict to take all feasible measures to account for persons reported missing as a result of armed conflict and to provide any information they have on their fate.
2. Invite States, intergovernmental, international and non-governmental organizations to exchange best practices and technical recommendations to facilitate and expedite the clarification of the fate of missing persons, inter-alia by the use of forensic sciences and other emerging technologies.
3. Call for establishing the annual Baku dialogue to discuss different aspects of the missing persons problem.
4. Also invite the international organizations, including the United Nations, ICRC and ICMP to assist in the clarification of the fate of missing persons, and facilitate the establishment of a mechanism, mandated specifically to address the issue of persons, missing as a result of armed conflict.
5. Express gratitude to the State Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons for the excellent organization of this event, providing valuable opportunity to discuss the national and global efforts to clarify the fate of missing persons.