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Seventy-ninth year****Prevention of armed conflict****Peacebuilding and sustaining peace****Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia
and related intolerance****The rule of law at the national and international levels****Measures to eliminate international terrorism****Letter dated 8 November 2024 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission 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 8 November – Victory Day 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, 69, 84 and 110, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tofiq **Musayev**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



Annex to the letter dated 8 November 2024 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 8 November – Victory Day

8 November 2024

Today, 4 years have passed since the Shusha victory, which determined the fate of the 44-day Patriotic War, ending almost 30 years of military occupation and aggression and creating new realities and historical opportunities for peace in the region. This date, which represents the beginning of a new era for our country and region, is celebrated as Victory Day according to the relevant Decree of H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Notwithstanding the grave economic, social and humanitarian consequences of Armenia's military aggression and 30-year-long occupation and the blatant violation of our territorial integrity and sovereignty, Azerbaijan was a party that made constant efforts to resolve the conflict peacefully.

However, Armenia's continuation of the illegal military occupation, steps to maintain its consequences, continuation of illegal activities in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and breaking the negotiation process by resorting to unacceptable rhetoric such as "new wars for new territories" and "Garabagh is Armenia" led to the failure of the conflict settlement process.

Following political provocations, Armenia's another large-scale offensive on 27 September 2020 forced Azerbaijan to take measures in accordance with the right to self-defence enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. The counter-offensive operation that started on that day was the beginning of the 44-day Patriotic War – the path to victory.

In order to sustain its illegal military occupation and undermine the will of our people, Armenia resorted to the practice of targeting the civilian population, committing grave war crimes against civilians in densely populated areas such as Ganja, Barda and Tartar, far from the regions where military operations were conducted.

However, as a result of the perseverance and bravery of the glorious Army of Azerbaijan, led by the victorious Commander-in-Chief, the cities of Jabrayil, Fuzuli, Zangilan, Gubadli, as well as the city of Shusha, which has special symbolic value and importance for the people of Azerbaijan, and more than 300 settlements were liberated from occupation. The Shusha victory on 8 November ensured the return of the occupied Kalbajar, Aghdam and Lachin districts based on the trilateral statement dated 10 November 2020.

Immediately after the Patriotic War, Azerbaijan proposed a peace initiative, declaring that its regional vision and approach are based on sustainable peacebuilding.

Nevertheless, Armenia's refusal to withdraw its occupying forces from our territories, continued military-political provocations, illegal exploitation of our natural resources and landmine threat to the lives and well-being of our citizens, in gross violation of the trilateral statement, necessitated the launch of counter-terrorism measures last year against the remnants of the Armenian occupation forces and the puppet regime established by Armenia in our territories.

Thus, the 44-day Patriotic War and the counter-terrorism measures carried out in the Garabagh region ensured the restoration of our territorial integrity and sovereignty leading to the emergence of historical conditions for sustainable peacebuilding.

Currently significant progress has been made in the bilateral negotiations with Armenia on the draft peace agreement, which are being held at our country's initiative.

However, despite the progress in the negotiations, there are still challenges and threats to a successful conclusion of the peace process. In particular, the ongoing territorial claims against our country enshrined in the Constitution of Armenia, as well as the militarization of Armenia against the backdrop of the presence of parties that provoke this country to military aggression again are obstacles to sustainable peace.

Armenia must learn from history and finally realize that territorial claims against its neighbours will not yield any results.

On 8 November – Victory Day, we commemorate our martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the territorial integrity of our country with deep respect and gratitude, wish good health to our war heroes, development and prosperity to our country and people, and peace and tranquillity to our region and the world.

Happy Victory Day!
