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**Statement by Mr. Tofiq F. Musayev
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan
in the exercise of the right of reply**

***48th plenary meeting of the General Assembly
9 December 2021***

I have asked for the floor in the exercise of the right of reply in connection with the comments by the delegate of Armenia. I would like to make the following points.

No matter how many international events Azerbaijan hosts and how many initiatives it puts forward, this is its sovereign right, as well as the right of any State or international organization to participate in or contribute to them or not. Armenia's attempts to challenge the resolutions of the General Assembly simply because of their mentioning of Azerbaijan as a host country of international events are irresponsible and unethical. Although the question here is whether it is appropriate at all to talk about ethics in relation to Armenia.

Persistently trying to portray itself almost as the center of civilization with traditions of coexistence, Armenia, unlike other countries in the South Caucasus and across the globe, is uniquely mono-ethnic, having achieved the homogenous composition as a result of deliberate policy and practice of ethnic cleansing and cultural erasure against other peoples, including Azerbaijanis – once the largest national minority in Armenia. Armenia has applied the same policy of creating a mono-ethnic culture also to the formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Indeed, what can be the weight of Armenia's allegations if it is not only liable for destroying, looting and vandalizing numerous cultural monuments and religious sites, but also for using mosques in the formerly occupied territories as pigsty, cow shed and animal pen?

Armenia has never deplored such outrageous acts and, instead, stubbornly refrains from investigating and prosecuting numerous hate crimes committed by its nationals and other persons and groups under its direction or control.

Moreover, continued attempts by Armenian officials to deny the existence of an Azerbaijani ethnicity or identity and dehumanize Azerbaijanis as inferior, calling them "rootless nomads" with no historical or cultural ties to their lands, are illustrative as to the deeply rooted racist prejudices in Armenia.

Azerbaijan did not unleash aggression against anyone. The assertion of the opposite is absurd not only because the place names to which the delegate of Armenia referred as alleged objects of imaginary aggression or occupation are fiction and does not exist on the world map, but also because it contradicts international law and numerous resolutions and documents adopted by international organizations.

Azerbaijan has seriously suffered from the aggression unleashed against it by Armenia in the early 1990s. A significant part of the sovereign territory of my country was seized and remained under occupation for nearly thirty years, in flagrant violation of international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions.

In response to Armenia's armed attacks last fall, Azerbaijan used a counter-force to protect its people and end the occupation of its territories, acting exclusively on its sovereign soil, in full conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Azerbaijan's military actions were carried out in accordance with international humanitarian law. Suffice it to mention that the 44-day war resulted in more civilian casualties in Azerbaijani-populated settlements far outside the theatre of active hostilities than within it – in Armenian-populated areas.

We resolutely reject Armenia's allegations about the so-called anti-Armenian hatred and the destruction of the Armenian cultural heritage.

I would recommend the delegate of Armenia not to waste time for lecturing others about the principles, values and norms that his Government has consistently disregarded and opposed. The post-conflict realities pave the way for Armenia to release itself from mythology and racist prejudices. The compliance with international law and good-neighbourly relations are the main objectives to which Armenia should finally begin aspiring.



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**Statement by Mr. Tofiq F. Musayev
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan
in the exercise of the second right of reply**

***48th plenary meeting of the General Assembly
9 December 2021***

The delegate of Armenia, instead of replying to the specific points in our statements, as usually, preferred to rely on the set of standard fabrications and distortions. As a result, we have heard irrelevant and out-of-context comments which apparently failed to respond to our arguments.

Personal attacks against the State Member of the United Nations demonstrate not only ill breeding of their authors and performers, but also their government's irresponsibility and inadequacy vis-à-vis the commonly agreed norms and values. Indeed, it would be unrealistic to expect the adherence to these norms and values by Armenia, whose leaders, without any remorse, declared Armenians and Azerbaijanis ethnically incompatible and repeatedly ordered the brutal killings of thousands of Azerbaijani civilians – children, women and the elderly.

The delegate of Armenia asserted that the protection of national minorities is a priority for his country. However, in its fourth report under the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Government of Armenia said: "Armenia is a mono-ethnic State". The question here is how Armenia protects minorities if they are not existent in the country.

It is of course ironic that Armenia – a country which unleashed aggression against Azerbaijan, committed heinous crimes during the conflict, carried out ethnic cleansing on a massive scale and methodically and systematically pursued a policy of destroying any traces of other cultures in the territories under its control; and a country where international terrorists, war criminals and even Nazi collaborators are national heroes – tries to portray itself as a staunch defender of human rights and fighter against discrimination.

In conclusion, I would like once again to express hope that, instead of sowing dissension and instilling enmity, Armenia will seize the historic opportunity to normalize its relations with the neighbouring countries, finally realize that diversity, dialogue and mutual understanding and respect are richness, not threat, and join the participants of the next World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue in Baku.