



**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Yashar Aliyev
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the United Nations**

**at the Security Council high-level virtual open debate in connection with the agenda item
“Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in
maintaining international peace and security”**

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Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to commend Viet Nam for having convened this important open debate and for submitting the concept note on the topic (S/2021/297).

Peoples throughout the world continue to suffer from wars and their devastating consequences, often aggravated by racist ideologies, incitement to ethnic and religious hatred and dissemination of fake historical narratives. The terrorist and related activities, transnational organized crime, the current coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the hazards of climate change also exacerbate the challenging security environment.

Most conflicts and post-conflict situations are regional, and cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements under Chapter VIII of the U.N. Charter is essential for the promotion of the purposes and principles of the Organization. At the same time, as the concept note points out, a great number of preventive measures have not been able to show their full potential owing to the absence of political will on various occasions. Each situation requires impartial and thorough analysis and assessment to prevent or mitigate the risks of resurgence of conflicts and crises.

Thus, the causes of failed peace efforts at the regional level include, among others, the instances of apparent misuse of regional organizations by the violators of international law as a shield for consolidating military gains. In that regard, it is critical that regional and subregional arrangements involved in conflict-settlement processes strictly comply with the established principles of effective mediation, such as the respect for international law and agreed mandates, the consent of the parties concerned and the impartiality of mediators. It is abundantly clear that mediation does not take place in a legal vacuum and that the mediators do not have a totally free reign.

Mr. President,

As is known, at the end of 1991 and the beginning of 1992, Armenia unleashed full-scale war against Azerbaijan. As a result, a significant part of the territory of Azerbaijan was occupied, tens of thousands of civilians were killed, all captured areas were ethnically cleansed of more than 700,000 Azerbaijanis, and hundreds of cities, towns and villages in my country were plundered and raised to the ground.

In 1993, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884, condemning the use of force against Azerbaijan and the resulting occupation of its territories, reaffirming respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory and demanding the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian occupying forces from all the occupied territories. A series of Security Council presidential statements adopted between 1992 and 1995 and numerous documents of other authoritative international organizations are framed along the same lines.

The aforementioned resolutions of the Security Council also formed the basis of the mandate of the Minsk Group of the CSCE (later, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)) and its co-chairmen and provided the framework for the settlement of the conflict. Thus, in their decision adopted at the CSCE Budapest Summit, held on 5–6 December 1994, the participating States, including both Armenia and Azerbaijan, inter alia, “confirmed their commitment to the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and welcomed the political support given by the Security Council to the CSCE’s efforts towards a peaceful settlement of the conflict”.

However, Security Council key demands, including in the first place the withdrawal of the occupying forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, have not been implemented by Armenia and the mediation efforts conducted within the framework of the CSCE/OSCE have yielded no results.

On the contrary, Armenia has deliberately disregarded the resolutions of the Security Council, has never engaged faithfully in negotiations and, instead, directed all its efforts at colonizing the seized territories under the cover of ceasefire and peace process. Moreover, the leadership of Armenia has regarded and publicized the aggression against Azerbaijan as a “glorious victory”, venerated war criminals and convicted terrorists as national heroes, overtly promoted the outrageous ideas of ethnic incompatibility and incited the youth and future generations to new wars and violence.

The lack of adequate international reaction to aggressive actions and unlawful activities by Armenia, attempts to maintain “a reasonable balance”, instead of calling a spade a spade, and notorious double standards and selectivity with regard to the universally recognized obligations and commitments under international law only encouraged Armenia to continue sticking to its guns and contributed to its sense of permissiveness.

Another act of aggression committed by Armenia on 27 September 2020 has become a logical consequence of the impunity it has enjoyed for more than thirty years. Even the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has not prevented Armenia from its armed provocation. The combat actions that followed have lasted for 44 days.

As a result of the counteroffensive operation undertaken and successfully accomplished by the armed forces of Azerbaijan, in the exercise of the inherent right of self-defence, some 10,000 km² of the territory of Azerbaijan, with more than 300 cities, towns and villages of Azerbaijan, were liberated from occupation.

The statement of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and the President of the Russian Federation, signed on 10 November 2020, has put an end to the almost three-decades-old armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan and set agreed parameters for establishing durable peace in the region. On 11 January 2021, the leaders of the three countries signed another joint statement aimed at implementing a number of practical steps to remove obstacles to economic and transport links in the region.

The new situation paves the way for hundreds of thousands of forcibly displaced persons to return to their places of origin in safety and dignity and for building peace, consolidating stability and restoring peaceful coexistence. Our priorities include the restoration, reconstruction and reintegration of the conflict-affected territories of Azerbaijan and ensuring equality of all their residents, including those of Armenian origin, without distinction of any kind, within the constitutional framework of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The end of the war also offers real prospects for the normalization of inter-State relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan based on mutual recognition and respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity within their internationally recognized borders. Azerbaijan expects that the international community, including the relevant regional organizations, will support these efforts aimed at consolidating peace, security and stability in the region.

Thank you.