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**Statement by Mr. Tofiq F. Musayev
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations
at the 57th plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the report of the
Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (A/76/1)**

24 January 2022

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for convening this plenary meeting to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization. We are grateful to the Secretary-General for submitting the report and sharing his priorities for 2022.

Peoples throughout the world continue to suffer from conflicts, forced displacements, terrorism, various forms of racism and extremism, hate speech, disinformation, inequality, poverty and climate change. The COVID-19 pandemic has aggravated and exacerbated these challenges.

Strengthened global solidarity, multilateralism and common efforts, with the United Nations at the core, grounded in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, are the most effective ways to achieve the goals of peace, inclusive sustainable development and human rights for all.

Azerbaijan commends the Secretary-General's strong commitment to reform and supports his efforts towards strengthening and improving the United Nations. We look forward to constructive consultations on "Our Common Agenda" and the outcomes based on unity and solidarity.

With regard to the pressing objective of ending COVID-19, we concur with the Secretary-General on the need to continue confronting vaccine inequality, prioritize vaccine production and supply, fight the plague of vaccine misinformation and improve preparedness for future pandemics. Azerbaijan spares no effort to contribute to strengthening international solidarity and cooperation and mobilizing support and resources to ensure equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a clear and universal road map for building a fair globalization and transforming economies and societies to ensure that no one is left behind. However, the growing divergence, imbalances and division between developed and developing countries necessitate much greater urgency, ambition and investment to reach our goals and targets.

Mr. President,

The scale and nature of sustaining peace call for closer strategic and operational partnership between the United Nations, Governments and other key stakeholders, complying with national sovereignty and taking into account national priorities and policies of States.

The purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations constitute the foundational framework in international relations. They are universally binding and remain as important as ever for the maintenance of international and regional peace and security and the promotion of sustained economic growth, sustainable development, human rights and justice.

Azerbaijan has seriously suffered from the devastating effects of the aggression committed against it, at the core of which were groundless territorial claims, misinterpretation of international law, fabricated historical narratives and racist motivations. A significant part of the sovereign territory of my country, namely, the former autonomous province of mountainous Garabagh, seven surrounding districts and some exclaves, was seized in the early 1990s and remained under unlawful occupation for nearly thirty years, in clear violation of international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Serious breaches of international humanitarian law amounting to war crimes, crimes against humanity and acts of genocide were committed in the course of the aggression. The scale of violations and destructions demonstrates the clear intent and purpose to terrorize, kill and expel Azerbaijani civilians.

Conflict resolution efforts conducted under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe yielded no results. Attempts of the aggressor to consolidate the status quo resulting from the unlawful use of force and colonize the seized territories under the cover of the ceasefire and the peace process could in no way be reconciled with the objectives of a negotiated settlement.

As a result of the 44-day war in autumn 2020, Azerbaijan put an end to the occupation and the almost three-decades-old armed conflict has been resolved.

Immediately after the end of the war, Azerbaijan has prioritized the reinforcement of its international borders, the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the liberated territories and the restoration of housing, essential services and transportation and communication infrastructure there to ensure the safe return of the displaced population and high standard of living. We appreciate the assistance of the United Nations and Member States to that effect.

Providing support to States affected by conflict and engaged in post-conflict peacebuilding, reconstruction and rehabilitation is and must remain a critical commitment of the entire United Nations system.

It is important that the engagement of humanitarian actors in conflict and post-conflict situations be exclusively humanitarian in nature, not misused for political purposes and carried out in conformity with the principles of neutrality, impartiality and consent of affected Member States, while fully respecting their sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

Furthermore, combating impunity for serious crimes is undeniable and require more energy and dedication to ensure justice and prevent the resurgence of conflicts and the commission of new offences.

It is also critical that the United Nations continue mobilizing the world against racism and confronting hate speech, hatred of all kinds, disinformation and the incitement to division, violence and extremism.

Strict compliance with international obligations and upholding the fundamental principle of territorial integrity of States are vital for preserving, building and sustaining peace and stability and for developing and enhancing cooperation. Azerbaijan is keen to continue its efforts towards that end.

Thank you.