

First right of reply by Azerbaijan, 09.06.2022

It is ironic that Armenia, which unleashed aggression against Azerbaijan, carried out ethnic cleansing on a massive scale and held the sovereign territories of my country under occupation for almost 30 years, is enthusiastically talking now about the norms and principles of international law.

However, such attempts are not capable of whitewashing the well-known real image of Armenia as a persistent violator of international law and human rights.

As to the fake entity and fabricated titles, which Armenia uses to refer to the localities within Azerbaijan, I am compelled to remind that so-called “Nagorno-Karabakh” long ceased to exist as an administrative and territorial unit. It was established by Azerbaijan in 1923 and abolished by Azerbaijan 68 years later – on 26 November 1991.

This area is the integral territory of Azerbaijan, which was under Armenia’s unlawful occupation for nearly three decades. The unlawfulness of attempted unilateral secession of this area from Azerbaijan was confirmed at the highest constitutional level and consistently reaffirmed at the international level, including by the Security Council.

Armenia’s claims in relation to self-determination are ill-founded, first and foremost, because they were never peaceful and have nothing in common with that principle, as it is set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, the 1975 CSCE Helsinki Final Act and other international documents.

Apart from the legal context, it is also curious that, having cleansed its own territory of all ethnic groups, including in particular the once largest Azerbaijani national minority, Armenia is advocating for self-determination of persons belonging to an Armenian ethnic minority in Azerbaijan.

We resolutely reject Armenia’s allegations about so-called anti-Armenian hatred and the destruction of the Armenian cultural heritage. The purpose of such allegations is evidently to mislead the international community, disguise own hate crimes and longstanding and deep-rooted racist policy.

As to Armenia itself, the relevant United Nations bodies and other international organizations have more than once expressed their serious concern about the spirit of intolerance prevailing in Armenia and the discriminatory policies and practices pursued in that country.

It is no accident that, in its decision of 7 December 2021, the International Court of Justice, in connection with Azerbaijan’s request for provisional measures under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, ordered Armenia to “take all necessary measures to prevent the incitement and promotion of racial hatred, including by

organizations and private persons in its territory, targeted at persons of Azerbaijani national or ethnic origin”.

As to the resolutions of the Security Council, it was exactly the Armenian armed attacks against Azerbaijan and the occupation of its territories, which elicited these resolutions, as well as seven presidential statements. Most importantly, the resolutions acknowledged that acts of military force were committed against Azerbaijan, that the territories of Azerbaijan were occupied and that those acts and their military outcomes constituted a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

The resumption of hostilities in the fall of 2020 was the result of Armenia’s continuous disregard for international law, obstruction of the peace process, numerous armed provocations on the ground and inflammatory and warmongering statements. Azerbaijan did not unleash aggression against anyone. The assertion of the opposite is contrary not only to international law and the resolutions adopted by this Assembly and by the Security Council, but also to elementary logic. The legality of Azerbaijan’s recourse to force is indisputable.

Armenia must, first and foremost, fully comply with its own international obligations, redress the harm caused to Azerbaijan and its people, faithfully commit to the normalization of inter-State relations based on international law and implement the trilateral statements in their entirety.

Second right of reply by Azerbaijan, 09.06.2022

Unfortunately, the representative of Armenia has used today's debate on the annual report of the Security Council to make groundless and propagandistic statements. It seems that Armenia has still not gotten used to the fact that its policy of aggression and occupation has been put to an end.

I sometimes regret that the rules of procedure limit the number and length of statements, thus regretfully preventing the delegation of Armenia from speaking more. Indeed, it is difficult to imagine whether the arguments could be more shameful, deceitful, preposterous and hateful than those shared by the representatives of Armenia.

Instead of wasting time and energy on lecturing others about the principles, values and norms that it has consistently opposed and violated, Armenia must realize that the goal of a peaceful, developing and sustainable region cannot be achieved by endlessly replicating obsolete and false narratives, misinterpreting international law and pursuing the policy of hatred, animosity and territorial claims.