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633 Third Avenue, Suite 3210, New York, NY, 10017  
Tel: (212) 371-2559, 371-2832 (ext. 101); Fax: (212) 371-2784, (646) 738-6143

**Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
at the Security Council Open Debate on “Women, Peace, and Security: Towards the 25<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of Resolution 1325”**

**Delivered by Mrs. Narmin Ahangari, First Secretary  
7 March 2023**

**Madame President,**

We would like to thank the Presidency of Mozambique for convening the open debate on this very important topic.

It provides a good opportunity to review the implementation of commitments of 1325 and subsequent UNSC Resolutions.

Although international law and standards have significantly developed over the years, women and children account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflict and hate-driven violence. Non-compliance by States with their international obligations and the lack of accountability for violations of international humanitarian and human rights law continue to remain a serious challenge.

While maintaining a consistent focus on advancing women, peace and security agenda, it is important that the Council persistently reiterates its demand for strict compliance with international obligations and the end of impunity for serious violations.

**Madame President,**

Women and girls in Azerbaijan have seriously suffered from the devastating effects of the aggression of Armenia in the past three decades.

The occupied territories of our country were ethnically cleansed of their more than 700,000 population, half of whom were women. The war claimed the lives of thousands of women and girls. Last month marked the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the genocide committed in the town of Khojaly, where hundreds of civilians, including 106 women, were brutally killed within a very few hours by the invading Armenia forces.

The tragic consequences of the occupation also include almost 4000 missing citizens of Azerbaijan, among which are 267 women. It was established that 98 of those women were taken as hostages. Although they were seen alive at the moment of captivity, their whereabouts are still unknown. We continue to raise awareness on this issue, including through annual resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on the Status of Women on the topics of missing persons and women and children taken hostage in armed conflict.

The perpetrators of brutal crimes committed against Azerbaijani civilians continue to enjoy impunity. To date, Armenia has taken no steps to bring the perpetrators to justice and to investigate and prosecute numerous horrific offences for which its military are responsible.

Even after the end of the conflict, 276 civilians of Azerbaijan, among them one woman, were killed or wounded by mine explosions in the liberated territories. Massive landmine contamination and continued refusal by Armenia to provide accurate and complete information about the minefields in these territories are among the major impediments to the ongoing recovery and reconstruction efforts and the safe return of the IDPs.

With the end of the conflict, it is high time for Armenia to honour its international obligations, take practical steps to shed light on the dark pages of its aggression against Azerbaijan and cooperate in good faith to eliminate its harsh consequences, so that we can build a better future for our peoples and region as a whole.

**Thank you, Madame President.**