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**Statement by Mr. Tofiq F. Musayev
Chargé d'affaires a.i. and Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations**

**at the Security Council open debate on the theme “Promoting Conflict Prevention –
Empowering All Actors Including Women and Youth” under the agenda item
“Peacebuilding and sustaining peace”**

13 March 2024

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank the delegation of Japan for having convened this important open debate.

With regard to the questions posed for the purposes of this meeting, the key definitions and obligations are prescribed by international law and the Charter of the United Nations. Within this basic understanding, the respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States is imperative for preventing conflicts, restoring and maintaining peace, protecting human security and promoting sustainable economic and social development.

Mr. President,

The international community failed to prevent and suppress the aggression against my country – Azerbaijan – and the resulting occupation, ethnic cleansing, devastation and cultural erasure of its territories by neighboring Armenia. Security Council resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884, unanimously adopted in 1993, remained unimplemented over the following 27 years.

Impunity for such ignorance and for systematic atrocities committed by the aggressor, along with apparent deviation of the settlement process within the regional arrangement from the universally accepted principles of effective mediation, created conditions conducive to the protraction of the conflict and aggravation of its military, humanitarian and economic implications.

It is noteworthy that certain countries that for decades turned a blind eye to or indulged in flagrant violations of international law and the human rights of hundreds of thousands of people uprooted from their homes as a result of the aggression have increased their selfish interest in the region after Azerbaijan liberated its territories from occupation, restored its sovereignty and territorial integrity and eliminated the threat of violent separatism.

Sustainable peace in the region requires that Armenia strictly abide by its international obligations, abandon its territorial claims, cease and desist from disinformation and misinformation, redress the harm caused to Azerbaijan by its aggression and occupation and engage faithfully in normalizing inter-State relations.

Mr. President,

Azerbaijan attaches particular importance to the women and peace and security and the youth, peace and security agendas and the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and young people. We are proud of the contribution that women from Azerbaijan make to the U.N. peacekeeping and the national post-conflict demining and development efforts.

These agendas acquire additional significance for my country also in the context of ongoing large-scale rehabilitation and reconstruction of the liberated territories to ensure the safe and dignified return of the forcibly displaced population to their places of origin, including women, girls and young people.

Support to and solidarity with States affected by conflict and engaged in post-conflict peacebuilding, rehabilitation and demining is and must remain a priority and critical commitment of the United Nations and the entire international community.

Thank you.