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Prevention of armed conflict

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

The responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity

Letter dated 13 September 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan in connection with the large-scale military provocation committed by the armed forces of Armenia along the State border in the directions of the Dashkasan, Kalbajar and Lachin districts of Azerbaijan on 12 September 2022, in clear violation of international law, the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the statement of 10 November 2020, which caused casualties among the personnel of the armed forces of Azerbaijan and damage to military infrastructure (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 30, 60 and 134 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar Aliyev Ambassador Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 13 September 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

13 September 2022

On 12 September 2022, starting late at night, units of the armed forces of Armenia committed large-scale provocations in the directions of Dashkasan, Kalbajar and Lachin along the Azerbaijan-Armenia State border.

According to the information provided by the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the sabotage groups of the armed forces of Armenia, using the mountainous relief of the area and existing valley gaps, carried out the planting of landmines in the areas between the positions of the units of Azerbaijan's army and the supply roads in different directions. In addition, the Armenian armed forces fired intensively at the positions of the Azerbaijani army in the Dashkasan, Kalbajar and Lachin districts with different types of weapons, including mortars. As a result, there are casualties among the personnel of our armed forces, and damage was inflicted to the military infrastructure.

In order to prevent further provocations by the armed forces of Armenia and military threats against the territory and sovereignty of our country to ensure the safety of our military personnel, including civilian workers involved in infrastructure activities in the territory of the Kalbajar and Lachin districts, expansion of the scale of the military hostilities was averted, and in order to silence the firing points of the armed forces of Armenia, definitive retaliatory measures were taken by the units of the Azerbaijani army deployed in this direction. Moreover, the information disseminated by the Armenian side that Azerbaijan's army allegedly targets the civilian population, facilities and infrastructure does not reflect reality and is another spread of disinformation by the Armenian side.

In general, during the past month, the provocations of the Armenian armed forces in the direction of the Lachin, Gadabay, Dashkasan and Kalbajar districts of the State border, and cases of shelling of the positions of the Azerbaijani army in those districts with various types of weapons, were intensive and systematic. At the same time, Armenia's increase in militarization along Azerbaijan's borders and deployment of heavy equipment and large-calibre weapons in the region indicated that Armenia was preparing for a large-scale military provocation.

By delaying the normalization process under various pretexts, showing a destructive position in the negotiations conducted through international efforts, not withdrawing its armed forces from the territory of Azerbaijan contrary to the obligations within the framework of trilateral statements and agreements, continuing to plant landmines, including those recently produced in Armenia in the territory of Lachin, putting forward new conditions, disrupting the process of opening of communications and transport routes and not responding to the peace agenda, Armenia demonstrates that it is not interested in the peace process and aims to undermine it.

Another aggression by the Armenian side against Azerbaijan is a gross violation of the fundamental norms and principles of international law, as well as of the provisions of the trilateral statements signed between the leaders of Azerbaijan, Armenia and the Russian Federation, and of the agreements reached between Azerbaijan and Armenia. These steps by Armenia are completely contrary to the ongoing normalization and peace process. At a time when Azerbaijan is carrying out large-scale restoration and construction works in these territories liberated from occupation, Armenia, by resorting to aggression, once again demonstrates that it is hindering this process by all means.

The responsibility for the provocation, clashes and losses lies with the militarypolitical leadership of Armenia. Any actions against the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Azerbaijan will be resolutely prevented.