



ԵԱՀԿ-ՈՒՄ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՄՇՏԱԿԱՆ ՆԵՐԿԱՅԱՑՈՒՑՉՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

**Right of Reply
on Violation of the Vienna Document Commitments by Azerbaijan**

**delivered by the Delegation of the Republic of Armenia at the 947th Plenary Meeting
of the Forum for Security Co-operation
May 27, 2020**

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to use our right of reply with regards to the response of the Delegation of Azerbaijan on the issue of the latest blatant violation by its country of the relevant provision of the Vienna Document 2011.

First, the Delegation of Azerbaijan once again makes a reference to the composition of the personnel involved in the military exercises. For the benefit of the participating States let me quote once again from the press release of the Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan “The exercises will involve up to 10,000 military personnel...”. We would advise the Azerbaijani Delegation to be consistent and in line with the official statement of its capital. With regards the comment on the types of troops involved as a justification of non-compliance I would like to remind those, who are still not aware of, that the Vienna Document does not make any distinction among the troops involved at the military exercises. Even more, it also includes the support troops.

Second, the claims regarding the involvement of the reserve forces or the civil defense units go in contradiction with the special quarantine regime in Azerbaijan in connection with the prevention of the spread of Covid-19.

The above mentioned clearly indicates that either the Delegation of Azerbaijan is detached from the realities of its own country or makes an unavailing attempt to justify open violation of its commitments. We are inclined to believe the second option. In this regard, we once again call on all participating States, including those that are constantly advocating in favour of the Vienna Document modernization, to condemn the violations by Azerbaijan.

Mr. Chairman,

In its response the Delegation of Azerbaijan referred to the military exercises conducted by the Defense Army of the Republic of Artsakh last year. I would like to remind that our today's

discussion by no means is linked to those exercises and my delegation has already had an opportunity to address the allegations of Azerbaijan. I would advise the Azerbaijani colleague to read once again carefully our statements in reply to those allegations. I may only hope that after getting acquainted with our statements the Delegation of Azerbaijan will spare our time and will refrain from repetitive and unfounded claims against Armenia and Artsakh.

Moreover, references to the military exercises launched in Armenia on 19 May is another attempt by the Azerbaijani Delegation at spreading disinformation and groundless accusations, since the press release of the Ministry of Defense of Armenia clearly stated that the exercises in question were conducted with the aim to further improve the defense capability at the level of one of the artillery brigades.

Mr. Chairman,

While openly violating the OSCE principles and commitments, the Azerbaijani side continues to routinely use the threats of use of force, including through conduct of large-scale military exercises, as intimidation tactics vis-a-vis Artsakh. This makes to question the intentions of Azerbaijan and the true nature of its commitment to a peace process. In this regard I would like to underline that Azerbaijan bears full responsibility for possible consequences of its aggressive behaviour.

Thank you.