



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

STATEMENT

on Azerbaijan's armed aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia as delivered by the Delegation of the Republic of Armenia at the 1022th Plenary Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation

21 September 2022

Mr. Chairman,

Since our last discussion, the security situation in our region continues to remain extremely fragile. As we have already reported on previous PC and FSC meetings last week, on September 13 at midnight Azerbaijan launched a large-scale military attack against Armenia on the eastern and south-eastern directions of Armenia-Azerbaijan border using heavy weaponry including artillery, mortars and combat UAVs with Azerbaijani troops simultaneously invading into sovereign territory of Armenia in the regions of Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor and Syunik. It should be noted that not only the positions of Armenian military units have been targeted but also civilian infrastructures and residential areas in several densely populated Armenian towns and villages. As a result of Azerbaijan's military aggression, 207 servicemen of Armenian armed forces have been killed or missing, about 300 wounded, 20 are being held in captivity, and thousands of people had to flee their homes. Furthermore, 3 civilians have been killed and another 3 wounded. Ambassadors and diplomats of a number of OSCE participating states, accredited in Armenia visited the affected regions and got acquainted on the spot with the results of this unprovoked aggression and indiscriminate shelling by the Azerbaijani armed forces which caused severe damage to civilian objects and critical infrastructure.

There is no doubt that the aggression has been preplanned and premeditated well in advance. It has been preceded by a false information campaign by Azerbaijan aimed at misleading the international community and preparing ground for the military aggression. I would say the fabricated stories on "the Armenian mining efforts and the invasion of subversive groups to Azeri territories" sound ridiculous not only to military experts but also to anyone with a minimum of common sense. Numerous official data and

publications such as “the military operation achieved its goals” as well as statements by some political leaders in Azerbaijan and elsewhere, clearly attest to the premeditated nature of this aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Armenia.

The official Communique by the Human Rights Defender of Armenia which the Delegation of Armenia has distributed recently also reveals the atrocities perpetrated by the Azerbaijani armed forces against the captured prisoners of war which includes cases of extrajudicial killings. The social media platforms are full of horrible and gory videos and pictures of torture, desecration and mutilation of the dead bodies of the Armenian soldiers, including women soldiers which have been disseminated by the Azerbaijani servicemen themselves. Apparently, this pattern of behaviour is encouraged and promoted by the Azerbaijani authorities, which we witnessed during the 2016 and 2020 aggression against Nagorno-Karabakh and in the aftermath.

Dear colleagues,

The fragile ceasefire is hardly holding, as it was violated yesterday in the eastern direction of the border when the village of Nerqin Hand came under fire. If there is no targeted condemnation of Azerbaijani actions and demands to withdraw the troops from the sovereign Armenian territories, if no effective mechanisms are employed to deter the further aggression, this country which has no respect or whatsoever to international law and international humanitarian law can easily go for another round of armed attack with an aim of occupying more sovereign territories of the Republic of Armenia, as well as continue the ethnic cleansings in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The situation in the region can jeopardize the security environment and trigger escalation with the involvement of other players going beyond the OSCE area of responsibility. Therefore, Armenia urges the OSCE, to act urgently and resolutely, to prevent another escalation and further deterioration of the situation in the region, which will inevitably lead to a complete collapse of the European security architecture.

Thank you.