



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

Statement

By Ambassador Armen Papikyan, Permanent Representative of Armenia

at the 1276th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

July 23, 2020

1st Right of Reply

First, I would like to state that we resolutely reject all groundless and repetitive accusations against Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

Second, there is no such conflict as “between Armenia and Azerbaijan”. It is worth remembering that, at least in the OSCE. This is not a mere public gathering; therefore, we have to respect the language used in this organization.

As to the references made with regard to PACE and the role of the PACE in Nagorno Karabakh conflict resolution, suffice to say, that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, for the first time in its entire history, faced an unprecedented crisis because of corruption scandals with the involvement of Azerbaijan. It is well known to everyone that Azerbaijan channelled billions of euros through several European banks to buy the support of parliamentarians. It is worth recalling that those parliamentarians who were so eager to defend Azerbaijan’s position, following a parliamentary enquiry, were deprived of the right to enter the Council of Europe building and attend PACE meetings. It is also worth recalling that one of these cases is still under investigation on corruption charges. I am not going to name the country, since, I believe, it is well-known. Anyone who wants to check it can just google up “corruption, PACE, Azerbaijan”. It is disturbing and regrettable that there are certain politicians, parliamentarians who, in reality, do not care either about Armenia or Azerbaijan, but use every opportunity to get personal benefits.

As to the *ad hoc* committee on Nagorno Karabakh. In 2012 the *ad hoc* committee was not reconstituted since there was a clear understanding in the PACE, and there were statements to this effect, that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict resolution falls within the remits of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairmanship. This is yet another illustration of the long history of Azerbaijan’s attempts to take the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict resolution out of the OSCE and put it on the agenda of various organizations often using questionable methods and means.

As to the human rights, the rule of law and democracy, I think Azerbaijan is the last country who shall dare to speak about those three pillars of the Council of Europe. It is worth recalling, among others, that Azerbaijan is the only country in the history of the Council of Europe against

which the Committee of Ministers launched an infringement proceedings for non-execution of the ECHR judgement, I refer here to the judgement on the case of Ilgar Mammadov v. Azerbaijan, which Azerbaijan continuously and repeatedly failed to execute.

With regards to corruption, action plans and commitments entered into in good faith when joining the Council of Europe, I should like to highlight the following point: the Council of Europe is not an organization designed to deal with conflicts, and this is something that has been made extremely clear by several Secretary-Generals of that Organisation. The Council of Europe is the organization to protect and promote human rights, the rule of law and democracy, and those are the rights of individuals, not of member-states, not the governments, but individuals. This is worth remembering for those who think otherwise.

2nd Right of Reply

Mr. Chairman,

Let me make a few comments. First, it is worth recalling that among commitments entered into by Azerbaijan, which were preconditions for its membership in the Council of Europe, there was a clear and explicit commitment to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict peacefully. Nevertheless, we heard from Azerbaijan a couple of days ago that “peacefully” is not the only option. So, it may turn out that if the Nagorno Karabakh conflict is resolved in any other way, then it might consequently put under question Azerbaijan’s membership to the Council of Europe.

Second, the observation, on the Minsk Group Co-Chairs. Yes, we support them. Yes, it is the only internationally mandated structure, mechanism to deal with the conflict resolution. Yes, we believe that unnecessary interference of others - not well placed to address the conflict resolution - is not helpful, just the contrary. Few minutes ago, I spoke about the corruption scandal in the Council of Europe. As a result, those who considered themselves well-placed to make judgements about ways of the conflict resolution, have been expelled from the Parliamentary Assembly, because of their corrupt practice of trading their support of Azerbaijan for certain benefits, including goods and services.

The important thing is to have a good-faith interaction, and constructive dialogue, while putting aside the maximalist demands. Maximalism is killing the whole process. This is something that we have to clearly understand and move forward. Once again, Armenia and Artsakh are committed to resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict only through peaceful means, we denounce the use of force and expect from Azerbaijan to denounce it in the same way.

3rd Right of Reply

We have heard a couple of times that the Minsk Group Co-chairmanship format is not helpful, the Council of Europe is not helpful, apparently, the OSCE is also not helpful. So, one should probably ask oneself or put this question to Baku: why nobody is helpful, and, more importantly why then you are blackmailing everyone and everything in order to achieve your questionable goals?

Thank you.