

HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING
Warsaw, 28 September to 9 October 2009

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

**Working session 6: Humanitarian issues and
other commitments I, including:
Trafficking in human beings**

Statement in the Exercise of the Right of Reply to the Republic of Azerbaijan

In the exercise of the right of reply concerning allegations on the so-called “occupation of Azerbaijan” I would like to remind the Azerbaijani representative that Nagorno Karabagh had formed an integral part of historic Armenia for thousands of years and was incorporated in the composition of the Azerbaijani SSR by an arbitrary rule of an unconstitutional and unauthorized party organ in 1921, against the will of the people of Nagorno Karabagh explicitly expressed by the decision of its Assembly. It should be noted that Azerbaijan never before entering the Soviet Union constituted a state with internationally recognized borders: in 1920 the League of Nations refused Azerbaijan’s application for membership in view of its territorial claims in respect of neighbouring countries.

The territories surrounding Nagorno Karabagh Republic (NKR), that currently serve as a “buffer zone” and “security belt,” have come under the control of Nagorno Karabagh Armenians as a result of the war unleashed by Azerbaijan in an attempt to stifle the peaceful drive of the people of Nagorno Karabakh for self-determination triggered by discriminatory policies of Azerbaijan. Nagorno Karabagh and the surroundings territories are under full control of the NKR elected authorities.

As for the allegations of any misuse of these territories for any criminal activity, I would like to restate, as my delegation has done on multiple occasions and in many fora that there has never been and there is no single evidence presented on the matter by any reliable source, including respective international organizations extensively present and dealing with those issues in Armenia and the region as a whole. In this regard, I would like to reiterate that there is a standing invitation by the authorities of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic to all international organizations to visit the republic to verify the validity of those accusations. Unfortunately, over and over again Azerbaijan creates obstacles to such expert-based visits.

Finally, I would like to express my regret that Azerbaijan once again abuses these thematic discussions for anti-Armenian propagation and dissemination of groundless accusations against my people and Nagorno Karabagh.