

Distr.: General 15 April 2020

Original: English

Human Rights Council Forty-third session 24 February–20 March 2020 Agenda item 4 Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Note verbale dated 8 April 2020 from the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and has the honour to state the following.

The so-called "elections" organized in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan by the Republic of Armenia – the occupying country – on 31 March of this year were strongly condemned and rejected by the international community.

International organizations, including the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance (NATO), the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the European Parliament, the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States, the Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Moldova Group (GUAM) and the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries (TURKPA), the Co-chairs of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and many individual States have made statements declaring that these "elections" and their results are illegal. This once again clearly demonstrates that the world community rejects the aggressive policy of the Republic of Armenia and its consequences.

It should be underlined that elections in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan may be held only within the constitutional framework of the Republic of Azerbaijan and with the full participation of the entire population of the region. Any election will be possible only after the withdrawal of Armenian occupying forces, the return of the expelled Azerbaijani population to their places of origin and the restoration of dialogue and cooperation between the Armenian and Azerbaijani communities in the region.

The Permanent Mission kindly requests the Office of the High Commissioner to circulate the present note verbale as a document of the forty-third session of the Human Rights Council, under agenda item 4.



