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Prevention of armed conflict

Right of peoples to self-determination

**The responsibility to protect and the prevention of
genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes
against humanity**

Letter dated 17 October 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia dated 17 October 2020 regarding the targeting of the territory of Armenia by the Azerbaijani armed forces and shelling of civilian settlements in Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh).

Armenia resolutely condemns the deliberate targeting of the civilian population and critical infrastructure, and the attempts by Azerbaijan to expand the geography of the conflict, leading to further deterioration of the security situation in the wider region. These actions of Azerbaijan and the rejection of the establishment of a ceasefire verification mechanism represent a gross violation of the humanitarian ceasefire as agreed by the foreign ministers of the Russian Federation, the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan on 10 October 2020.

The ongoing military offensive of Azerbaijan, encouraged and supported by Turkey, with the involvement of foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries, is a blatant disregard of numerous calls of the international community, in particular the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Minsk Group co-chairs and the United Nations Secretary-General on cessation of hostilities and resumption of negotiations without preconditions.

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 71 and 135, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mher **Margaryan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 17 October 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia on the targeting of the territory of Armenia by Azerbaijan

17 October 2020

On the evening of October 16, Azerbaijan once again started shelling the civilian settlements of Artsakh, including the capital of the Republic, Stepanakert. As a result three civilians of Shosh community were wounded.

At the same time, the air defence system of the Republic of Armenia has detected flights of the Azerbaijani UAVs to the direction of the Khatsakh, Artsvanik, Davit Bek settlements of the Syunik region of the Republic of Armenia, which was followed by an attack towards military installations of the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia damaging also the civilian infrastructure. Fortunately no one was killed and wounded.

It is noteworthy that a few hours before the Azerbaijani side disseminated a provocative and absolutely false allegation on the shelling of Ordubad settlement in the Nakhijevan Autonomous Republic by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia. In line with their traditional behaviour, the wave of such disinformation was followed by the real aggression against the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia.

Consistent attempts of Azerbaijan to extend the geography of the conflict, thus irreversibly undermining the regional security should be condemned in the strongest terms. Any encroachment against the territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia will receive an adequate response.
