



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

**Right of Reply
by the Delegation of Armenia
in response to the Delegation of Azerbaijan
at the 1387th meeting of the Permanent Council**

2 September 2022

Mr Chairman,

I will not respond to the whole set of allegations by the Azerbaijani delegation yesterday for the sake of time and out of respect for this body, but nevertheless would like to react to some of them.

Nevertheless, there were certain distortions and twisting of provisions of the trilateral statement, other facts and realities on the ground which require reaction in order to debunk the falsifications and the deceptive claims that we heard from Azerbaijan yesterday under the current issue with a highly questionable title.

So, the Representative of Azerbaijan claimed that Armenia under different pretexts is evading its responsibilities under the Trilateral statement in the context of the situation around Berdzor, Aghavno and Sus. This is nothing but a shameless manipulation and lie, since what Armenia was insisting on was the strict implementation of the relevant provision of the Trilateral statement, namely the provision number six which state that, and I quote: “As agreed by the Parties, within the next three years, a plan will be outlined for the construction of a new route via the Lachin Corridor, to provide a connection between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia, and the Russian peacemaking forces shall be subsequently relocated to protect the route. The Republic of Azerbaijan shall guarantee the security of persons, vehicles and cargo moving along the Lachin Corridor in both directions.”

I strongly doubt that the representative of Azerbaijan can show such a plan simply because such a plan does not exist at this moment. Armenia insists that up until this very moment there is no outlined plan for the construction of the route.

Dear colleagues,

The representative of Azerbaijan also made false allegations about Armenians conducting resettlement and he even referred to some international recognition of that fact.

Well those allegations simply do not withstand any criticism, because the OSCE itself conducted a fact finding and a Field Assessment missions to the adjacent regions of Nagorno-Karabakh back in 2005 and 2010 and the “FFM found no clear indications that the NK or Armenian authorities directly organized resettlement. As well, there was no sign of non-voluntary resettlement in the territories. Likewise, the FFM found no evidence of systematic recruitment of settlers to come to the territories.” The same applies to the Lachin region “the FFM found no evidence of direct involvement of the government of Armenia in Lachin settlement”.

It also concluded “that the overwhelming majority of settlers are displaced persons from various parts of Azerbaijan, notably from Goranboy, Chaikent, Sumgayit and Baku.” In other words, people who survived and escaped massacres and pogroms organized by the authorities of Azerbaijan in those cities.

The representative of Azerbaijan went even further claiming that Armenians were trying to change the demographic picture of the region. This is one of the most cynical allegations. First of all, from a historical perspective, like it or not, it is undeniable that this region was the cradle of Armenian culture, civilization and statehood therefore Armenians existed in these territories for millennia which, I assume, for certain reasons could be hard to comprehend for some.

But when it comes to the issue of changing the demographic mosaic of the region, let me underline that it is exactly what Azerbaijan has been doing throughout its entire existence. Suffice to recall that there is no single Armenian in all those territories that are currently under the control of Azerbaijan. Let me also refresh the memory of Azerbaijani delegation regarding the state policy of Soviet Azerbaijan aimed at changing the demographic picture of Artsakh which was admitted by the late President of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev, father of the incumbent president who in an interview back in 2002 while speaking about the times when he was the First Secretary of the communist party of Azerbaijan he recalled certain activities at that time that were aimed at changing the

demographic picture. In this regard he said and I quote: "By doing these and other things, I tried to increase the number of Azeris there, and reduce the number of the Armenians in Nagorno Karabakh. Those who worked in Nagorno Karabakh at the time know about it."

So, before making such absurd allegations about changing the demographic picture, Azerbaijan should take a look in the mirror.

And finally, in its statement Azerbaijan referred to the triumph of international law. This statement is extremely cynical and dishonest, to say the least, as the President of that country, on a number of occasions, publicly denounced the international law and praised the use of force as a determining factor in international relations.

Thank you.