



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

Right of Reply

**delivered by the Delegation of Armenia at the 953rd Plenary Meeting of the Forum
for Security Co-operation
September 9, 2020**

In response to the Delegation of Azerbaijan

Madam Chairperson,

It was not our intention to take the floor once again, however the groundless accusations of the delegation of Azerbaijan compels me to make several brief comments.

At the outset I would like to mention that we have had numerous previous occasions to address the outdated accusations of Azerbaijan. At the same time, we think it is necessary to stress once again that Armenia is not aware of any occupation of the territories of this country, despite the opposite claims. If the representative of Azerbaijan refers to Nagorno-Karabakh, then we would like to remind him that in 1991 the people of Nagorno-Karabakh used their right to self-determination and it is now a *de facto* independent state. Moreover, it is a well-known fact that Nagorno-Karabakh has never been part of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Armenian delegation on numerous occasions presented both the historical and legal bases of this fact.

Referring to the conventional arms transfers or issues related to small arms and light weapons, I would like to encourage the Azerbaijani side with the same enthusiasm first of all present here in this hall the excessive accumulation of heavy weaponry by its country. For the information of the participating States, these weapons were used against the civilian infrastructures and population during the aggression of the armed forces of Azerbaijan in July this year.

Madam Chairperson,

I believe that the country that continuously disregards its commitments under Vienna Document, including Chapter V on Prior Notification of Certain Military Activities, rejects any transparency measures regarding its military exercises, majority of which are above

threshold, significantly exceeds the ceilings of the CFE treaty in four out of five categories, excludes 10 out of 28 brigades from any verification activities, for several other brigades puts such preconditions that make the verification a useless exercise, and these are just a few of the violations of Azerbaijan, has no legitimate or moral right to talk about possible violation of any other participating State, let alone Armenia.

I encourage Azerbaijan to publicly renounce the use of force against Armenia and the Republic of Artsakh and take reliable steps to end the anti-Armenian rhetoric. I am convinced that in this case there will be no need to make senseless calls to the other participating States.

Thank you.