



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

Statement

**In response to the United States of America also on behalf of the three
Co-chairing countries of the OSCE Minsk Group
delivered by the Delegation of Armenia at the 1296th meeting of the
OSCE Permanent Council**

17 December 2020

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the delegation of the United States of America for raising this current issue and for bringing the recent statement of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs released on 14 December to the attention of the Permanent Council.

We welcome the fact that after a long break caused primarily by the COVID19-related restrictions, the Co-Chairs were finally able to visit the region and discuss with the sides as well as representatives of the ICRC and UN agencies active in the region the situation on the ground following the full-scale war and aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan against Artsakh, with full and direct support and involvement of Turkey and the foreign terrorist and jihadist fighters it hired.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me inform the Permanent Council that during their visit to Yerevan, Ambassadors Stéphane Visconti and Andrew Schofer, as well as Charge d'Affaires of the Russian Embassy in Armenia Alexei Sinegubov and Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Andrzej Kasprzyk were received by Prime Minister H.E. Nikol Pashinyan and Foreign Minister H.E. Ara Aivazian.

Prime Minister Pashinyan appreciated the visit of the Co-Chairs to the region in the wake of the war unleashed by Azerbaijan against Nagorno-Karabakh and stressed the necessity for the resumption of the peace talks under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmanship to achieve a comprehensive settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The Prime Minister also condemned Azerbaijan's violation of its obligations under the trilateral statement, in particular the provocative actions of its military on the line of contact between the armed forces of Artsakh and Azerbaijan on December 11-12, amid the visit of the Co-Chairs to the region, which resulted in the occupation of two villages in Hadrut region of Artsakh.

During his meeting with the Co-Chairs, Foreign Minister Ara Aivazian reiterated Armenia's principled position on ensuring respect for the rights and interests of the Armenians of

Artsakh, first of all, within the peace process under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmanship. Minister Ara Aivazian reiterated the priorities of the Armenian side - the determination of the status of Artsakh on the basis of the principle of equal rights and self-determination, de-occupation of the territories of Artsakh currently under the control of Azerbaijan, creating conditions for the safe and dignified return of recently displaced Armenians of Artsakh to their homes, and protection of their religious and cultural heritage. Minister Aivazian once again drew the attention of the Co-Chairs to Azerbaijan's provocative actions in violation of its obligations under the trilateral statement. He also stressed that the hate speech and Armenophobia constantly expressed in statements of the military-political leadership of Azerbaijan at various levels, once again proves Azerbaijan's inability to engage constructively in the peace process and abandon its belligerent and aggressive policy.

Mr. Chairman,

Against this background, we were shocked by the vituperative and disrespectful remarks of the President of Azerbaijan during his meeting with the Co-Chairs in Baku, which went beyond the bounds of decency and diplomatic norms. Moreover, President Aliyev's remarks about Armenia and the Armenians were an extreme manifestation of intolerance and hatred towards Armenia and the Armenian people. We find such statements unacceptable and deplorable.

Further, encouraged by the impunity of his actions, the hereditary president of Azerbaijan unapologetically and without hesitation stated that Azerbaijan "resolved the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict" by force. Unfortunately, the overall performance of the President of Azerbaijan, the terminology used, the ostentatious and poisonous mindset displayed during the meeting with the Co-Chairs in Baku clearly suggest that the Azerbaijani leader is not ready for genuine dialogue, which is rather symptomatic of authoritarian rulers like Ilham Aliyev.

In conclusion, let me stress that the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs remain the only internationally mandated mechanism to deal with the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict resolution. We appreciate the continued efforts of the Co-Chairs to achieve a peaceful, comprehensive and sustainable settlement of the conflict through negotiations, and we encourage them to redouble their efforts to this end. We also reiterate that all issues related to the conflict resolution must be discussed within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs.

Thank you.