

Delegation of the Republic of Armenia
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1st Right of reply at the general debate

Mr. Chair,

It was not my intention to have a lengthy discussion, but I have to react to the statement made by the delegation of Azerbaijan.

With regard to the references to the so-called “sovereign territory”, let me stress that Nagorno-Karabakh has never been part of the independent Azerbaijan and the Republic of Azerbaijan cannot claim sovereignty over Nagorno-Karabakh.

On the eve of the collapse of the Soviet Union, in September 1991 Nagorno-Karabakh, which even then had a distinctive status of an Autonomous Region, exercised its right to self-determination and in full compliance and in line with the relevant norms and principles of international law and national legislation in force, following the referendum declared the establishment of an independent state.

The desperate attempts of Azerbaijan to label Artsakh as a “sovereign territory” in any other way are also hopeless. It is worth mentioning that regardless of the tense security situation, with regular cease-fire violations and an ongoing threat of war, the people of Artsakh have proved throughout the last 30 years that they are capable of creating and maintaining a society with vibrant democratic institutions, rule of law and respect for human rights. This has been confirmed by many international institutions. The Freedom House in its annual Freedom in the World rating has for many consecutive years given Nagorno-Karabakh a much higher rating than Azerbaijan.

Mr. Chair, Armenia will continue, in spite of the Azerbaijani discomfiture, to raise the awareness of our bilateral partners and within international organizations about numerous crimes that were committed by Azerbaijan in relation and the context of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, including to study and analyze them in order to elaborate viable mechanisms for their prevention.

Thank you Mr. Chair