

## **Ninth session of the Working Group on Smuggling of Migrants**

### **1. Right of Reply of the Delegation of Azerbaijan**

Since the delegation of Armenia mentioned my country, I would like to exercise our right of reply to the delegation of Armenia.

I regret that the delegation of Armenia continues to hijack all relevant and irrelevant platforms and agenda items to project its false narrative. I do not see merit in engaging in point by point debate with the delegation whose position is premised on fake narratives, distortion of facts and groundless allegations against Azerbaijan.

I remind the delegation of Armenia that the reference to so called “Artsakh” is the internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan and was liberated from Armenian occupation as a result of 44 days Patriotic War in 2020.

The comments made by the delegation of Armenia regarding the sovereign territories of Azerbaijan are the attempt to interfere with the internal affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and constitutes violation of international law.

Mr. Chair,

As you are well aware, the Republic of Azerbaijan objected to the participation of the “Democracy Today” and “UMCOR Armenia Foundation” in the constructive dialogues to be held on 1 July 2022.

According to the information on the websites of the above-mentioned NGOs and other publicly available sources, “Democracy Today” and “UMCOR Armenia Foundation” were involved in and implemented several projects with regard to so-called “Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh)” – an illegal entity non-existent in the eyes of international law, that was set up by Armenia in the formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan. It was denied any recognition by the entire international community. It was ultimately nothing other than the product of aggression and racial discrimination against Azerbaijan. The United Nations Security Council in its resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993) reaffirmed the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Armenia-registered for-profit and non-profit private companies and entities have a notorious track-record of engaging in and playing a decisive role in funding, enabling and facilitating permanent changes in physical, economic, demographic and cultural character of the formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan both for private gain and for supporting the prolongation of the occupation of these territories. During the conflict, these territories were transformed into a breeding ground for illegal armed groups and criminal networks and were used for illegal economic and other activities, exploitation and pillage of natural resources and other forms of wealth that fueled the conflict and consolidated unlawful situation.

The objection of Azerbaijan to the participation of the above mentioned NGOs' in the constructive dialogues is the national security issue for my country. Inviolability of territorial integrity, sovereignty and non-interference of internal affairs of the States are the main principles of the international law and must be respected.

## **2. Right of Reply of the Delegation of Azerbaijan**

Mr. Chair,

Thank you.

I did not have the intention to prolong this discussion. However, as the delegation of Armenia referred to my country again, I would like to briefly reply.

This is not the first time that Armenia has not shed away from overtly attempting to mislead the international community and delegations as to the causes, course and consequences of the war that it unleashed against Azerbaijan. The comments made by the delegation of Armenia, full of standard set of fabrication and distortions, also demonstrate how Armenia is far from complying with its international obligations or promoting peace, stability and cooperation in our region.

I once more remind that so called "Artsakh" to which the delegation of Armenia refers in its statement is a sovereign territory of Azerbaijan and this was confirmed at the highest constitutional level at the relevant time and subsequently reaffirmed in Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), General Assembly resolution 62/243, reports and statements of UN Secretary General and numerous other international documents. This sovereign territory of Azerbaijan has been under Armenia's unlawful occupation for nearly three decades.

Going back to the issue - participation of above mentioned NGO that promote fictitious entity in flagrant disrespect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, as well as the principles and procedures for the international standardization of geographical names established within the United Nations is contrary to the very purpose of convening constructive dialogues pursuant to Article 32, paragraph 3(c) of the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and paragraph 53 of the Procedures and rules for the functioning of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the UNTOC and the protocols thereto. It will not serve the objectives and the spirit of constructive dialogue as such and will not contribute to the envisioned positive outcomes.

I thank you.