



Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
1098th Meeting of the Permanent Council,
28 April 2016

in response to the Delegation of the Republic of Armenia

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to respond to the accusations, which are unfounded and unjustified in respect to Azerbaijan.

Let me stress that active military hostilities are taking place deeply inside the territory, which is internationally recognized as Azerbaijan's. That is the right of Azerbaijan to defend its population from arbitrary shelling and heavy artillery attacks exercised by the Armenian Forces. The Armenian Ambassador mentioned that 10 casualties were recorded since the last cease-fire agreement of April 5. But he failed to recognize that these are casualties of Armenian citizens who are serving illegally on the territory of Azerbaijan.

The Armenian Ambassador claimed that Azerbaijan uses civilians as a shield. That is absolute lie, because the territory close to the line of contact under the control of Azerbaijani Forces is populated by civilians. The other side of the line of contact, not controlled by Azerbaijan, is ethnically cleansed by the Armenian Forces. Therefore, there are no civilians on the other side of the line of contact and it is a shame to report that Azerbaijan is using the civilians. The Azerbaijani Forces are defending civilians who are targeted by the Armenian Forces.

The Ambassador of Armenia referred to the so-called non-recognized entities, as usually done in the statements made or distributed in writing by his Delegation. Distribution of information of non-existing institutions within the OSCE is regretful and is not helpful to the resolution of the conflict.

Distinguished Ambassador of Armenia also implied that Azerbaijan is disrupting activities of PR CiO. That is not the case. With regard to the new line of confrontation that exists now, which was requested by Ambassador Kasprzyk to be monitored, I wish to note the following.

The Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan could not provide security guarantee for the OSCE officials and field officers there, due to the fact that these positions are heavily attacked and shelled by the Armenian Forces. So it is in the interest of Armenia to respect the cease-fire and to allow Ambassador Kasprzyk to conduct the monitoring.

As a matter of fact, the monitoring of the cease-fire is not mandated by 1994 or 1995 agreements. For that activity, there are decisions of the OSCE of 1994 and 1995. These decisions gave the mandate to the Personal Representative of the Chairmanship-in-Office. As for the suggestions to expand its capabilities, we can consider this, but this has to be put in the proper context, which is the withdrawal of the Armenian Forces from the territories of Azerbaijan. That is demanded by the United Nations Security Council Resolutions to be done unconditionally, immediately and completely. Armenia as well as OSCE and the entire international community should pursue this objective - the unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from the territories of Azerbaijan. We can consider the issue of strengthening of the PR CiO mandate, once Armenia agrees peacefully to withdraw from these territories.

Further on, Ambassador of Armenia claimed that the cease-fire agreement of 1994 and other sort of agreements of 1995 were denounced by Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan clearly through its Note Verbale explained that the actions of Armenia constitute a material breach of those agreements. International law, which I hope distinguished Ambassador of Armenia, as well as those who are in the process, has to understand that if there is a material breach, an agreement ceases its effect either fully or partially. The Azerbaijani side in its Verbal Notes, both in Vienna and in New-York at the United Nations Headquarters has reported that 1994 agreement has ceased its effect by the material breach of Armenia. This is the position of the Azerbaijani side. As for the reference by the Armenian Ambassador that the Minsk Group co-chairs represent the international community, I have to stress that views and opinions of the Co-Chairmen do not represent the view of the international community. They represent their personal views. The mandate given to the Co-Chairmen, that is the decision of international community and they have to implement this mandate that demands the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions. Now there is a cease-fire agreement reached by the Chiefs of the General Staff of Azerbaijan and Armenia in Moscow on 5th of April. It is again not respected, but I will speak on this issue after this agenda item.

Furthermore, Ambassador of Armenia claimed that they will guarantee the security of Nagorno-Karabakh. The question is what he implies as an exercise of guarantees is unequivocally determined as a threat to international peace. It was defined as a violation of the internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan through the use of force and it was demanded by the United Nations Security Council that the occupying forces must withdraw from these territories. These are necessary measures, which could restore the security in the region. It is not for Armenia to guarantee security of the population, which is on the territory of Azerbaijan.

The final point which he attempted to claim is that the talks on peace are impossible. I assume that he implied here the interview given by the President of Armenia, in which the latter refused to engage in the negotiations. That is regrettable. The logic of the Armenian side is incomprehensible in light of this statement. On the one hand Armenian side makes statement that the conflict should be solved through peace, and on the other it refuses to engage in the negotiations and continues provocations both in military and political domains. In this context we again appeal to the international community to publicly condemn such statements made by the leadership of Armenia. The international community should convince Armenia that its actions are inconsistent with its obligations.

Thank you.