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**Statement by Mr. Tofiq F. Musayev
Member of the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

**at the Sixth Committee of the seventy-fourth session of the United Nations
General Assembly under agenda item 82: "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter
of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization"**

18 October 2019

Mr. Chairman,

Azerbaijan aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier today by the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. I would like to make some additional remarks in our national capacity.

We welcome the Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, as contained in document A/74/33.

We also commend the Secretary-General for the progress made in the preparation of studies for the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and for his efforts to update the Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council. Earlier this year, Azerbaijan made a contribution to the Trust Fund, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/44, for the elimination of the backlog in the Repertory.

We recognize the valuable contribution of the Special Committee to examining the issues relating to the Charter of the United Nations and the strengthening of the role of the Organization with regard to the maintenance and consolidation of international peace and security, the development of cooperation among States and the promotion of international law.

The role of the Committee acquires additional relevance in the context of the ongoing efforts towards improving the efficiency of the United Nations and making it more responsive to the needs of Member States.

At its last session held this February, the Special Committee conducted meaningful and result-oriented discussions, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/206. We attach particular importance to the annual thematic debate, under agenda item on the peaceful settlement of disputes, which contributes to the more efficient and effective use of peaceful means and promotes a culture of peace among Member States.

This year's session of the Special Committee focused on the exchange of information on State practices regarding the use of mediation. Many delegations, including Azerbaijan, have taken part in useful and productive discussions and shared their views and experience on the matter, emphasizing the importance of mediation, as a key aspect of preventative diplomacy and an effective tool widely used in practice to peacefully settle conflicts and disputes.

We look forward to productive deliberations during the next session of the Special Committee, including within the thematic debate on the subtopic "Exchange of information on States practices regarding the use of conciliation".

Mr. Chairman,

The report of the Special Committee offered practical examples of mediation, among which the mediation by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe of the conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan was mentioned.

As is known, the report was adopted by consensus at its plenary meeting held on 27 February 2019, after discussions among Member States. Against that background, the comments just made by one delegation – seven and a half months after the adoption of the report – cannot but attract attention and require some clarifications.

That delegation claimed that the official title of the mediation process is allegedly different from that referred to in the report of the Special Committee. The main purpose of this position is obviously not to stick scrupulously to certain formulations as such, but to question the sovereignty of Azerbaijan over its Nagorno-Karabakh region and evade responsibility for the war waged and its consequences.

It should be emphasized in that regard that the Security Council explicitly referred, in its resolutions 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), adopted in response to the capture and occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan, to "the conflict in and around the Nagorno Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic", while "*Reaffirming* the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijani Republic", as well as "the inviolability of international borders". Similar language had been used earlier, in resolution 822 (1993), as well as later in a series of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE and on the situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Consequently, the formulation "the conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan", contained in paragraph 59 of the Report of the Special Committee, is in line with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and General Assembly and thus is the reflection of strong support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders.

Thank you.