



**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
TO THE UNITED NATION**

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**Statement by Mr. Tofiq F. Musayev
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**at the Sixth Committee of the seventy-fifth session of the United Nations
General Assembly under agenda item 86: "The rule of law at the
national and international levels"**

22 October 2020

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to focus on the following key issues with regard to the theme under consideration.

First and foremost, all States must strictly comply with their international obligations, particularly those relating to respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and inviolability of their internationally recognized borders.

The established principle of the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory is one of the cornerstones of the international legal order and must be enforced unconditionally and without exception.

This principle and the ensuing obligation of non-recognition of situations resulting from serious breaches of international law, along with abstention from aid or assistance that contribute to consolidation of the consequences of such breaches, are universally binding and need to be upheld and promoted.

It is also critical that the international community consistently and overwhelmingly oppose and reject any attempts to cover up and consolidate aggressions and other illegal acts by misinterpretation of the international legal norms and principles.

It is important that conflict settlement frameworks and mechanisms not be exploited and misused by the violators of international law as a shield for entrenching the situations resulting from the unlawful use of force, war crimes, crimes against humanity, acts of genocide and ethnic cleansing.

Whatever the choice of States as to the mechanisms adopted for resolving their disputes or conflicts, no settlement can be reached which is inconsistent with international law.

The effective and accountable functioning of the international legal order necessitates the implementation of decisions adopted by the principal organs of the United Nations. Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations is clear about the obligations of Member States to that effect. It

is unacceptable that armed aggressions against sovereign States and the resulting territorial acquisitions continue, Security Council resolutions notwithstanding.

Furthermore, combating impunity for violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, is undeniable and requires redoubled efforts at all levels. Unfortunately, in some situations of armed conflict, including those of a protracted nature, accountability has not received proper attention and perpetrators continue to enjoy impunity.

Azerbaijan's consistent position with regard to the issue under consideration is well known and stems, among other factors, from its experience of facing armed aggression, ethnic cleansing and unlawful foreign military occupation.

In its resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884, the Security Council acknowledged the fact that acts of military force were committed against Azerbaijan, that those acts were incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, and that they constituted a violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

Serious violations of international humanitarian law have been committed in the course of the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan. Despite the extensive and revealing evidence of extreme brutalities, Armenia has continued to enjoy impunity for committed crimes, which, as immediate corollary, has generated the sense of permissiveness in its authorities, freed their hands for new crimes and led to the situation we are facing now.

As we have informed the Committee at its previous meetings, on 27 September 2020, Armenia perpetrated another armed attack against Azerbaijan that has resulted in numerous casualties among civilians and the military, as well as has claimed the lives of many civilians and the military and caused substantial destruction of civilian objects in my country.

In order to repulse the aggression and ensure the safety of the civilian population, the armed forces of Azerbaijan have undertaken countermeasures, in the exercise of the right of self-defence and in full compliance with international humanitarian law.

Despite the humanitarian cease-fire agreed on 9 and 17 October 2020, direct and indiscriminate attacks of the armed forces of Armenia against the cities, towns and villages in Azerbaijan have continued. As a result, 63 civilians, including children, women and the elderly, were killed, 292 civilians were seriously wounded, 1981 private houses, 90 apartment buildings and 386 other civilian objects were either destroyed or damaged.

Azerbaijan will spare no effort towards ending the unlawful occupation of the Nagorno-Karabakh region and its other seized territories, achieving the political settlement of the conflict based on international law and ensuring peace and justice in the region.

Thank you.