

Intervention
Right of reply
Nairobi, 6 December 2017

Mr. Chair,

I apologize for asking for the floor again but I was compelled to do so. The delegation of Azerbaijan is continuing its defective tradition of abusing every possible platform by disseminating blatant distortion of the history and current state of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict resolution. I don't want to go into the details of the essence of the conflict as it will take quite of your time and will divert us from our main task here. I just would like to stress that Nagorno Karabakh or Republic of Artsakh has never been a part of independent Azerbaijan. It was granted to Soviet Azerbaijan on July 5 in 1921 by the unilateral decision of Stalin which even for those times was a clear violation of the Soviet Procedures. During that very Soviet Period Azerbaijan has exhausted the level of trust of the population of Nagorno Karabakh while governing the Nagorno Karabakh by suppressing the rights of Armenian majority living there. During the entire period of being of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast within Azerbaijan SSR, the leadership of this republic had been regularly and consistently violating the rights and interests of the Armenian population.

Today Azerbaijan is continuing with the very same logic. It spreads hatred towards Armenians, glorifies ISIS style murderers of Armenians thus encouraging new killings on the highest level.

Blaming its neighbor for its inability to deliver on its own commitments both on domestically and internationally has become a usual practice for the oil-rich but inefficiently governed Azerbaijan. Several independent investigative reports by independent bodies were published where dazzling records of corruption and abuse of public funds by the ruling elite were revealed.

We encourage Azerbaijan to make genuine efforts to address their systemic problems, including endemic corruption, lack of transparency and accountability as well as persistent crackdowns on civil society and human rights activists, to attain the SDGs, particularly those related to building peaceful and inclusive societies that are based on respect for human rights, rule of law and good governance.

Just a small piece of information for the delegation of Azerbaijan. While Azerbaijan is abusing the floor here by bringing up the issue of the conflict and derailing our working process, another meeting between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Armenia and Azerbaijan is scheduled today in Vienna to push on the peace talks within the only negotiating format that is the OSCE Minsk Group Co Chairs.

Thank you Chair.