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Azerbaijan Republic

STATEMENT
By
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Azerbaijan Republic to UN
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At the meeting of the First Committee
Thematic Discussion: Regional disarmament and Security.
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Madam Chair.

The regional disarmament and security play a vital role in establishing for peace in all conflict areas. Unfortunately, there are still many unresolved conflicts in the world and especially in our region. Unresolved conflicts have become the centre of concentration of the uncontrolled arms. One of them is located in Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and in the territories around it, which still also are under the Armenia's occupation. It constitutes almost 20% of our territory. This territory has become a key transiting point for the illegal trade in arms, which have acquired threatening proportions to the security of my country.

During last five years Armenia has been intensively arming its military forces in the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. The analysis of these data indicates that during this time the numbers of Unaccounted and uncontrolled Treaty Limited Equipment (UTLEs) in the occupied territories have been consistently increasing. As a result of this fact in accordance with the data of Protocol on Notification and Exchange of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe in 2005 Armenia has 316 units of Battle tanks, 324 units of Armored Combat Vehicles, 322 units of Artillery, 50000 personnel. These facts exceed the acceptable rates for Armenia.
Azerbaijan is obliged to undertake necessary measures in the situation of the existence of the unresolved conflict in its territory and the increase in numbers of the UTLEs in the occupied territories during the last 15 years.

With regard to the increase of the military budget of Azerbaijan, as we have stated previously, it is the matter of an overall economic development of the country and the general increase of the state budget. In terms of quantitative indicators, we are not exceeding the usual norms of expenditures in a peace time despite the fact of occupation and undeclared war. It should be taken into account that the considerable part of expenditures goes to salaries, housing and other social needs of the military personnel. Moreover, comparative analysis shows that in correlation to its population, Armenia is much more militarized in terms of number of military personnel, as well quantity of armaments. The military budget of Armenia as a percentage of GDP consists of 3,86 % while Azerbaijan has 3,26 %.

The Ministry of Defense of Armenia has repeatedly stated: “**Armenia is not concerned about the increase of the military budget of Azerbaijan, because the military budget of Armenia is in no ways lagging behind Azerbaijan’s military budget. Armenia’s military budget is not only financed by government, but also by Armenian Diaspora. Our military budget has other donors. But we do not talk about it and there is not need for that**”.

As long as Armenia continues to follow its aggressive policy, any talks about peace, stability and all-inclusive cooperation in the region are irrelevant. First of all, Armenia should ask herself about the reasons of such a situation.

Not surprisingly, Armenia again is making another unsuccessful attempt to mislead the OSCE community. Perhaps it would be better to mention the situation in 2001 when Armenia having circulated “nil” report under the UN Register on Conventional Arms Transfers did not notify about 8 additional tanks acquired by this county. The explanation at that time given by Armenia stated that “**these 8 battle tanks were recovered from various parts retrieved from the scene of border clashes**”, which made the situation even more contradictory. Only after Azerbaijan’s statement on this issue, Armenia was obliged to notify in the JCG framework.
Also Armenia was obliged to notify about the purchase of 10 SU-25 combat aircrafts after Azerbaijan’s raising this issue in the FSC in 2005.

**Madam Chair.**

Azerbaijan is today in the situation of war and despite this fact, it is continuing to fulfill its commitments under the CFE Treaty.

In conditions of undeclared war by Armenia, Azerbaijan had and still has all the reasons to cease the implementation of the CFE Treaty on its territory. However, we were refusing and still refuse from taking this step. Beyond, even in this difficult situation we are doing our best for the implementation of all CFE commitments.

Thank you.