SECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE 2010 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY
ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS
(28 APRIL – 9 MAY 2008, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND)

CLUSTER II

Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the form of right of reply

Geneva, 7 May 2008
Mr. Chairman,

I am exercising this right of reply to the Statement made by the Delegation of Armenia yesterday. Due to the lateness of the time I did not make this statement right after the afore-mentioned intervention.

The Armenian delegate referred in his statement to the point as if there is not yet an evidence of occupation of one fifth of the territory of Azerbaijan by Armenia. Certainly to hear this at this very point is more than ridiculous and surprising! In this regard I would like to recall the documents adopted by the UN Security Council and General Assembly, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe as well as Organization for Islamic Conference.

Resolution 1416 (2005) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe which has referred to the UN SC Resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 has in its part recognized that “considerable parts of the territory of Azerbaijan are still occupied by Armenian forces” and reiterated that “the occupation of foreign territory by a member state constitutes a grave violation of that state’s obligations as a member of the Council of Europe”.

Well, I have no doubt that the Delegate of Armenia knows them by heart!

As for peaceful negotiations on the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan they are being held more than decade. While Azerbaijan and its population are suffering from the occupation and displacement as well as from the high number of refugees and IDPs which amount to 1 million the Government of Azerbaijan has demonstrated its will throughout the negotiations and has made efforts to settle down the conflict by diplomatic means.

Unfortunately the unconstructiveness of Armenia has not enabled the parties to advance in negotiations. Armenia has repeatedly rejected the liberation of occupied territories and return of displaced population to their native land completely ignoring the will of international community expressed in UN SC Resolutions requesting the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of all occupying forces from the occupied territories.

I do not need but to add that the delegate of the occupying power of Armenia has demonstrated by means of his yesterday’s statement who acts for propaganda and who in the name of truth and peace.

Last but not the least, the Statement of the Delegation of Azerbaijan was about the nuclear weapons-free-zone in the context of Cluster II. The occupation and existence of occupied territories uncontrolled by Azerbaijan does not allow implementing the relevant requirements of international agreements in this domain.

Thank you.