

Permanent Mission of Armenia

Thank you, Madame Chairperson.

At the outset, I would like to welcome and thank all the speakers for their enlightening contributions. As a signatory to basically all global and regional instruments for minority rights, Armenia has been a staunch and persistent advocate of the international mandates on amplifying voices and ensuring protection for all minorities. In this regard we would like to extend our congratulations to the newly appointed Special Representative on Minority Issues and wish him every success for the period of his tenure. We agree that inclusion and promotion of minorities contribute to the peace and security, hence the exclusion and the denial of the political, economic, cultural, and social rights, state policy of hatred, and discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities are the main challenges and root causes of many other grievances including present conflicts.

Armenians in Azerbaijan have been prosecuted massacred and deported in 1990 in exactly such an environment. The anti-Armenian hatred and discrimination in Azerbaijan has been widely reported, including by the UN CERD, UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Rights, Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention of the Protection of National Minorities, and European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, among others. Moreover in the atmosphere of impunity Azerbaijan (POINT OF ORDER)... Thank you Madame Chair. The point of order cannot be accepted because I haven't used any unpermitted or unrecognize terminology, so I would like to continue. Moreover, in the atmosphere of impunity, Azerbaijan committed violations of human rights and international humanitarian law against the people of Nagorno Karabakh, kept it under siege for 10 months, and ethnically cleansed it about two months ago. (CUT OFF BY CHAIR. TIME UP.)