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Statement by Mrs. Sofya MARGARYAN

Legal Adviser, Permanent Mission of Armenia to the UN

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Mr / Madam Chair,

We congratulate you and the Bureau on your election and wish you much success in steering the work of the Committee under the challenging circumstances we are facing.

The Charter of the United Nations, which laid the cornerstone of the Organization and codified the major principles of international relations in the aftermaths of the calamities of the Second World War, reaffirmed the collective pledge of “we, the peoples of the United Nations” in order to safeguard human dignity, peace and prosperity at all times, including in times of crisis.

Armenia strongly identifies with the Charter’s objective of promoting peace, development and human rights for all. We stress that the purposes and principles of the Charter have mutually reinforcing significance for the maintenance of international peace and security and there must be no attempts to create an artificial hierarchy or prioritize some principles over the others.

We also stress that the principles of sovereignty, non-interference or territorial integrity cannot be invoked to justify breaches of obligations under peremptory norms. Notably, these include the right of all peoples to self-determination, the progressive realization of which has led to a gradual increase in the membership of the United Nations since its foundation. Constituting one of the essential principles of contemporary international law as enshrined in a number of fundamental international instruments, including the UN Charter, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States, the right to self-determination, entitles all peoples to freely determine, without external interference, their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

We note that the right of peoples to self-determination cannot be limited to a certain historical period or political context and should be upheld at all times, whereby the use of force against this inalienable right under any pretext, including misplaced invocation of the right to self-defence, constitutes a fundamental threat to the international peace and security.

In this context, we emphasize the importance of and our unwavering commitment to peaceful and negotiated settlement of disputes within the framework of internationally mandated mediation formats.

Mr Chair,

The past year has seen an unprecedented crisis disrupting the very foundations of societies and multilateral systems. As the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated challenges continue to ravage the world, the United Nations should serve as the guardian and the custodian of the international law, the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and values of humanity. Armenia reiterates its support to the strengthening of the Organization and its resilience in order to help fulfil the aspirations of the UN Charter and the purposes and principles of international law in their entirety.

I thank you.