



PERMANENT MISSION OF ARMENIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

2024 Session of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

Item 2: The Peaceful Settlement of Disputes

22 February 2024

Mr. Chair,

I would like to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election and wish you all success in guiding the work of the Committee.

The peaceful settlement of disputes, as outlined in Chapter VI of the UN Charter, is an obligation that applies to all Member States, adherence to which is imperative for the maintenance of the international peace and security and for the prevention of conflicts, the costs of which are immeasurable and often extend far beyond national borders.

According to Article 33 of the Charter, the parties to any dispute, the continuation of which is likely to endanger international peace and security, shall seek peaceful solutions, including through regional arrangements. The regional arrangements, as outlined in Chapter VIII, have an instrumental role in promoting and facilitating peaceful settlements owing to the institutional expertise and knowledge of the complexities of the conflicts within their respective regions.

Since their inception, the good offices of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmanship have been essential in mobilizing diplomacy, skills and expertise for the peaceful settlement of the conflict. This internationally mandated regional arrangement came under a major attack, when Azerbaijan chose to launch a destructive war amidst a global pandemic in 2020, in grave violation of the existing ceasefire agreements and the UN Charter.

Azerbaijan's persistent failure to adhere to the obligation of the peaceful settlement prescribed in the Charter has culminated in the perpetration of ethnic cleansing in Nagorno-Karabakh, which involved the deliberate starvation of the civilians with the barbaric siege of their only transportation lifeline, the Lachin Corridor, which was followed by the use of deadly military force that caused widespread forced displacement of the entire ethnic Armenian population.

Over the years, Armenia has consistently alerted the international community that, emboldened by the use of force in the past, Azerbaijan has been engaging in the illegal attempts of acquisition of territories. Azerbaijan's armed attacks against Armenia's territorial integrity in 2021 and 2022, as well as the latest offensive perpetrated on 13 February demonstrate an utter disregard for the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, while revealing a clear intention to fuel instabilities in our region.

Mr. Chair,

Peaceful settlement of disputes can only be achieved when adherence to the rule of law is ensured and those responsible for violations of the international law are held accountable, through a fair and impartial justice system, which addresses the root causes of conflict.

Established under Article 92 of the UN charter, the International Court of Justice is the principal judicial body of the United Nations, which stands as a distinct pillar in the architecture of peaceful settlement of disputes. Compliance with the decisions of the ICJ is fundamental in ensuring that justice can be served and that breaches of international law can be essentially prevented in the future. With this in mind, in 2021, Armenia instituted interstate proceedings at the ICJ under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) to address the systemic violations directed at individuals of Armenian ethnic or national origin and to protect and preserve their rights from further harm. In the period from 2021 to 2023, the ICJ issued eight provisional measures against Azerbaijan, including the legally binding obligation to ensure unimpeded movement of persons, vehicles and cargo along the Lachin Corridor in both directions, as well as the obligation to ensure that persons who have been forced out of Nagorno-Karabakh September 2023 are able to return.

To this date, Azerbaijan has failed to implement the legally binding Orders of the Court, having, instead, steadily established itself as a serial violator, whose actions and rhetoric are fully demonstrative of an intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national and ethnic group as such.

In conclusion, Mr. Chair, I would like to reiterate Armenia's support to efforts aimed at strengthening the international capacities to fulfill the aspirations enshrined in the UN Charter and to ensure accountability for its violations, wherever they occur.

Thank you.