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Nümayəndəliyi**



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**Statement by Mr. Tofiq F. Musayev
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations**

**at the general debate of the 2024 session of the Special Committee on the Charter of the
United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization**

20 February 2024

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election and assure you in our delegation's full support.

Mr. Chairman,

Geopolitical tensions are rising, multilateralism is being ignored and undermined, and the universally accepted fundamental values, norms and principles are being overtly disregarded or misinterpreted. As a result, the world is becoming more divided, uncompromising and intolerant.

We look forward to the Summit of the Future this September and its inter-governmentally negotiated outcome as an opportunity to reflect on collective commitment to the U.N. Charter, international law and multilateralism.

Respect for the fundamental sovereignty and territorial integrity of States is crucial to any progress in preventing conflicts, restoring and maintaining peace, building bonds of peaceful mutual benefit among nations, enhancing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, protecting human security and promoting sustainable economic and social development.

We recognize the valuable contribution of the Special Committee to examining the issues relating to the U.N. Charter and the strengthening of the role of the Organization with regard to the promotion of international law and the development of cooperation among States.

As one of the core principles, the peaceful settlement of international disputes remains a key item on the agenda of the Committee. The primary objective of this principle is to commit States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force. States have a free choice as to the mechanisms of settling their disputes or resolving conflicts to reach satisfactory terms for their termination by themselves.

The strict compliance by States with their international obligations is critical to ensure, *inter alia*, that their respective territories are not used and their legislations do not lay grounds for activities aimed at undermining the territorial integrity of other States.

It is for every State to judge for itself, in the first instance, whether necessity in self-defence has arisen. The acting State is the one to determine when, where and how to employ counter-force to defend its territory and people.

Azerbaijan's experience of nearly thirty years of unlawful occupation of its territories by Armenia and the resulting large-scale ethnic cleansing, numerous atrocity crimes committed against its people, destruction and devastation of its cities, towns and villages, cultural erasure and ecological terrorism is an illustration and reminder of the need for resolute and effective actions to prevent conflicts and enforce aggressors to respect international law.

The counter-offensive operation and the local counter-terrorism measures carried out by Azerbaijan in the fall of 2020 and last September, respectively, in the exercise of the right of self-defence, put an end to the occupation of its territories and dismantled the separatist regime once created by Armenia in those territories to implement its annexationist and colonization policy.

Azerbaijan is determined to continue efforts towards establishing lasting peace, ensuring justice and preventing and eliminating by all available means, in accordance with the U.N. Charter and international law, any threats to the safety and well-being of its people and the State's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

We look forward to useful deliberations during this session of the Special Committee, including within the annual thematic debate under the agenda item on the peaceful settlement of disputes. We also expect that the Committee will conduct meaningful, constructive and result-oriented discussions on the proposals before it, with a view of their finalization.

Thank you.