

Reply of the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Working session 2

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The representative of Armenian delegation – the country which bears primary responsibility for starting war, committing aggression against Azerbaijan, implementing ethnic cleansing against the large population of ethnic Azerbaijanis, openly advocating racist ideology voiced statement full of groundless accusations and attempts to criticize the neighboring countries and lecture them on peace and human rights.

I should bring into the attention of the representative of Armenia that multiculturalism is one of the distinct features of Azerbaijan that differs it from Armenia. Today Azerbaijan is not only pursuing the policy of multiculturalism and is one of the promoters of multiculturalism. And this is what we are proud of. Suffice it to say that despite the on-going war between Armenia and Azerbaijan, there are more than 20 000 Armenians living in Baku only, while in Armenia which used to be home for more than 200 000 ethnic Azerbaijanis lives now no single Azerbaijani.

Representative of Armenia while falsely accusing Azerbaijani leadership in "...promoting racial hatred and racism" forgets about the statement of then President of Armenia Robert Kocharian voiced in his speech in Council of Europe saying "Armenians and Azerbaijanis are ethnically, genetically incompatible". The then Secretary General of the Council of Europe Walter Schwimmer said that "Kocharian's comment was tantamount to warmongering" and manifestation of "bellicose and hate rhetoric", while the then President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Peter Schieder stated that "since its creation the Council of Europe has never heard the phrase 'ethnic incompatibility'". What representative of Armenia also forgets is the confessions the incumbent President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan made in his interview with Thomas de Waal, which has been fixed in the latter's book "Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan through Peace and War".

Armenian representative should rather be concerned about having a leader who has publicly conceded to committing ethnic cleansing in Karabakh and killing hundreds of innocent civilians in one night in Khojaly. During one night more than 600 civilians were brutally killed in that town only because they were

Azerbaijanis. Not even women, children and elderly were spared by the invading Armenian troops and irregular local armed groups.

In her statement representative of Armenia mentioned Sumgayit events and claimed as if Armenians were being killed in Azerbaijan including Nagorno Karabakh, trying to justify the war unleashed by Armenia with the mentioned groundless claims. Today, 800 Armenians continue to live in Sumgait, and a total of up to 30000 Armenians live in major cities of Azerbaijan. Meanwhile, no Azerbaijanis are left in Armenia - all were ethnically cleansed.

In the end would like to add that there is no doubt continuation of Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict is the main obstacle to peace and stability in the region. Azerbaijan is faithful to peaceful solution of the conflict and remains in this position. We believe instead of trying to put a blame on us for this unwanted situation, Armenian side should rather think of righting the wrong they have done - which means withdrawing occupying forces from Azerbaijan's Nagorno Karabakh region and adjacent to it 7 other regions. This would remove the main hindrance on peace and prosperity in the region.

Thank you!