Statement in the exercise of the right of reply
by Ambassador Vahram Kazhoyan,
Director of the International Organizations Department,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
At the General Debate of the 68th Session of the UNGA
October 1, 2013

First Intervention

Thank you Mr. President,

I apologize for taking the floor, it wasn’t my intention. However, I am compelled to take the floor to reply to the comments made just now by the representative of Azerbaijan.

Those comments were based on even more lies in addition to the statement made earlier by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, and it, as usual, did not contain a single true statement. Probably it is easy making statements when nobody is verifying what you say and what is truth or lie.

I will not go into too much detail and explain that whatever happened back in 1988, was the expression of the right to self-determination by the people of Nagorno Karabakh, and the fact that the realization of their absolutely legal constitutional right was responded by hostilities, massacres and war by Azerbaijan against the peaceful population. And this is how it all started – from the aggression by Azerbaijan against the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh.

Nothing that Azerbaijan tells to the world from any podium can be considered as factual; on the contrary - it’s a constant barrage of lies, combined with anti-Armenian racist rhetoric. I guess the strategy is – to tell such unbelievable lies and to repeat them so often, so that sooner or later people will get used to them. In fact they have repeated these lies so often that they do believe it is true. But let me assure you, this is just wishful thinking.

What can one expect from a country whose president openly declares that
Armenians of the world are the enemy of Azerbaijan? I believe this is called xenophobia and this is punishable by law, at least in the civilized world that I am from and we all represent here. Azerbaijan is the only country in the world that boasts with its astronomical military expenditures... I believe raising defense budget is not something to be proud of, especially that the rest of the world is thinking of the development goals and many countries do not have the required resources. But no, Azerbaijani president declares proudly and loudly about this, threatens Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh with war by declaring “Today, our state budget is almost 10 times higher than that of Armenia. Our military spending alone is about 30-50 per cent higher than the entire state budget of Armenia”.

Azerbaijan is the country where someone who has killed a foreigner – an Armenian – is considered a national hero. In any democratic country a murderer would have received what’s prescribed by law. The murderer of a sleeping person - would have been branded as a coward murderer through generations.

Azerbaijan uses the tactics of “the best defense is the good offence”, hoping that if they put the blame on everybody else for what the world condemns them, it will save them. However, no one can manipulate the world and the public opinion... even the oil-dollars-rich Azerbaijan. Therefore, no Azerbaijani, and especially no Azerbaijani official has any historical, moral and legal right to tell the Nagorno Karabakh Republic how to live and how independent to be.

Azerbaijani leadership speaks two different languages: on the one hand they call for peaceful dialogue and resolution of the conflict, while putting the blame for each and every thing on Armenia and Armenians; and on the other hand the President of the country declares, “We can never allow Armenia to join any political, economic, energy and transport projects. We have isolated them and make no secret of that. In the future, our isolation policy must be continued. It is paying off. ”

The UN SC resolutions are calling upon Azerbaijan to stop hostilities against the peaceful population of Nagorno Karabakh. Despite the ceasefire agreement which Azerbaijan signed in 1994 with the de facto Authorities of Nagorno Karabakh, it continues the sniper shooting on the line of contact and killing soldiers and
civilians alike, and rejecting the withdrawal of snipers which could have been a plausible CBM.

If Azerbaijan’s willingness to return refugees and IDPs to their homes, they just need to follow up with the OSCE Minsk Group proposed principles.

I thank you Mr. President

---

**Second Intervention**

Mr. President,

The only gauge for measuring the sincerity of Azerbaijan’s words is the results of their participation in the OSCE Minsk Group negotiations and the acceptance of the documents on the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict adopted in the frameworks of the OSCE Summits and the statements of Presidents of the Co-Chair countries in the frameworks of the G8 and G20 Summits. Armenia’s position is in line with these documents. Armenia and the international community are speaking in one language regarding the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. It is time for Azerbaijan to listen to the voice of the world -- the world of the United Nations.

I really wonder how the memory works with the Azerbaijani delegation. 1988 - Nagorno Karabakh people peacefully asks for independence from Azerbaijan, they are attacked by Azerbaijan, Armenians organize self-defense, Azerbaijan unleashes large-scale war in 1992-94, but the people of Nagorno Karabakh stop the Azerbaijani aggression and declare the Independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic. These are brief historical facts that took place not so long ago, and it’s not very difficult to remember these basic textbook facts and stop turning everything upside down, but retelling the history in a manner that they would like to hear.
Mr. President,

Listening to the statements of the Azerbaijani leadership, one comes to an obvious conclusion that it is the most racist and xenophobic state. The latest manifestation of such an attitude took place a few days ago, on September 18, the president of the Azerbaijani Republic said the following: “...the national flag of Azerbaijan must be raised in Shusha and Khankandi, and the Azerbaijanis should live on all of their historical lands in the future. Our historical lands are the Erivan khanate, the Goycha and Zangezur Mahals. The time will come when we will live there. I believe in and am sure of that. Time is passing. We simply want it to happen soon.”

Let me just clarify to this august assembly that all those geographic names are the distorted Azeri versions of Armenian names, Erivan, being Yerevan, the capital of an independent state, – the Republic of Armenia, a proud member of the United Nations.

I ask you - what is this if not aggressive militaristic xenophobia?! Is this what the rest of the world expects from a member of the United Nations Security Council? Tomorrow the Azerbaijani delegation will brief the non-Security-Council UN Member States on the program of work for this month -- the month of its Presidency. And I am pretty sure they will speak of the importance of peace... no one in his right mind will trust and believe those words. You can’t advocate for war against your neighbor and against another nation and preach for peace simultaneously! Sounds more like the wolf in sheep's clothing...

I am not buying that kind of preaching Mr. President. And I don’t think anyone should.

I thank you Mr. President.