

**Statement of the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
with regard to the written statement of the delegation of the Republic of Armenia of 10 December 2015**

11 December 2015

The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan supports the efforts directed at adoption of new legally binding global Paris agreement on climate change under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21). It actively participates in the negotiation process and constructively contributes to negotiations to produce balanced text of the new Paris agreement on climate change to be applicable to all Parties.

Surely this new Paris agreement will be based on the principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change which is the United Nations treaty. In this line, the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan has once again to remind to the delegation of the Republic of Armenia that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change reaffirms the sovereign right of member States, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, to exploit their own resources.

The ongoing occupation by the Republic of Armenia the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan and its seven districts surrounding that region, as well as plunder of natural resources and other wealth in these occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan present a serious threat to the economic development and prosperity of the entire region.

Statement of the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 8 December 2015 with regard to the written statement of the delegation of the Republic of Armenia of 8 December 2015 in the context of the High Level Segment of the COP 21 has described some concrete examples of the state policy of the Republic of Armenia carried out in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan (the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan and its seven districts surrounding that region), which causes serious obstacles to climate change mitigation and adaptation activities of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and minimizes the effect of those activities.

As a clear example, the Republic of Azerbaijan has made significant efforts to realize efficient reforestation policy aimed at tackling mitigation targets, whereby the Republic of Armenia has been destroying forests and other green areas in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Recent discussions within various international organizations, including the Council of Europe has once again demonstrated concerns regarding “environmental aggression” of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan through intentional pollution of rivers, destruction of forests, degradation of lands, organization of large scale arsons which resulted in uncontrolled greenhouse gas emissions and other illegal actions that rendered grave environmental damage.

The Republic of Armenia does not have any legal, moral and historical ground to talk on behalf of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan at the UNFCCC COP 21 that is the United Nations event, the Security Council of which has adopted four Resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 unequivocally demanding immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian occupying forces from the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Moreover, claims and data reflected in the written statement of the delegation of the Republic of Armenia of 10 December 2015 is illegitimate and deliberately falsified. The above mentioned statement of the delegation of the Republic of Armenia once again testifies the occupation of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan by the Republic of Armenia.

The Republic of Azerbaijan demands that the Republic of Armenia respects the fundamental norms and principles of international law, particularly those related to sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized frontiers of states, as well as starts to fulfil its commitments under the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884. Only after the implementation by the Republic of Armenia of the above mentioned Resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, the Republic of Azerbaijan can fully realize announced national contributions reflected in its INDC, and efficient mitigation and adaption actions in the whole South Caucasus region can be ensured.

The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan requests the Secretariat of the UNFCCC to reflect the position stated in this statement in the official records of the UNFCCC COP 21.