

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

**The High Level Segment of the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21)
of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
8 December 2015**

The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan reminds delegation of the Republic of Armenia that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 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 Republic of Azerbaijan has stated in its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) that the challenges for the implementation of relevant reduction targets on greenhouse gas emissions, as well as efficient realization of climate change mitigation and adaptation actions are conditioned by the ability of Azerbaijan to exercise effective control over its territory illegally occupied currently by Armenia. The continuing illegal occupation by Armenia of almost 20 percent of the territory of Azerbaijan remains a major obstacle for Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan to make full use and control of its natural resources and relevant infrastructural potential to address the challenges related to climate change.

As a result of Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan accompanied by heinous ethnic cleansing and forced displacement of more than one million of Azerbaijanis, 1.7 million hectares of land in Azerbaijan, including 595.6 thousand hectares of agricultural land, 247.5 thousand hectares of forest area and 10.1 thousand hectares of farmland remain currently under foreign Armenian occupation. In addition, 247.352 hectares of forest area, including 13197.5 hectares of rare and valuable forests, 152 natural monuments and 5 geological sites located in these occupied territories have been destroyed by Armenia. Location of Sarsang water reservoir in the occupied territories resulted by constant shortage of annual water intake in summer periods which consequently led to irrigation problems in the sawn areas and due to aridity problems to destruction of green areas in other parts of Azerbaijan. Large scale arsons regularly committed by Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan lead to land degradations, uncontrolled greenhouse gas emissions and cause other grave environmental damages. Illegal occupation of Azerbaijani territories by Armenia is also a serious threat to the unique ecosystem of ancient Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

These are only some concrete examples of serious problems created by one Party of the UNFCCC, Armenia, through military aggression and foreign occupation of large territory of another Party of the UNFCCC, Azerbaijan.

Armenia, on the one side, through its national statement delivered at the Leaders Event and its INDC expresses willingness to undertake quantitative commitments to limit greenhouse gas emissions in its territory, but on the other side, in almost 20 percent of the territory of Azerbaijan illegally occupied by Armenia, organizes regular large scale arsons resulted by considerable land degradations and uncontrolled greenhouse gas emissions, as well as contributes to destruction of forests and other green areas in the territory of Azerbaijan and consequently has very negative impact to mitigation and adaptation targets of Azerbaijan.

Continued Armenian illegal occupation of Azerbaijani territories also runs counter to four resolutions of the United Nations Security Council (822, 853, 874 and 884 of 1993) demanding immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian occupying forces from the Nagorno-Karabakh and other occupied regions of Azerbaijan. Unfortunately, all these years Armenia ignores these resolutions, rejects every meaningful effort by international mediators to resolve this tragic conflict and does everything to consolidate the status-quo in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, which has been recognized as unacceptable by the whole international community, including by leaders of France, the United States and Russian Federation as countries-cochairmen of the Minsk Group of the OSCE.

Aforementioned illegal actions of Armenia have not only had serious negative impact on capacity of Azerbaijan to address climate change challenges, including relevant mitigation and adaptation targets, but they are also in grave contradiction with the Convention, as well as global temperature targets and universal goals and measures against climate change that we are all discussing at the UNFCCC COP 21.

The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan draws the attention of participating states at the UNFCCC COP 21 that the fact of presentation of afore-mentioned concrete problems created by Armenia to minimize effects of mitigation and adaption actions of Azerbaijan and increased international pressure to Armenia in this regard, has forced the delegation of Armenia to continue to use their traditional falsification and disinformation policy to spread libels on Azerbaijan on human rights issues.

In this line, we have to stress that the level of democracy in Azerbaijan is much more developed than in Armenia where after each falsified elections peaceful protesters are killed by its criminal, dictatorial and puppet government. This criminal regime tries to hide such serious problems created for its own population, as well as its aggression policy in the South Caucasus region through using of “Armenian electoral diaspora pressure diplomacy” via its communities in the world.

Therefore, the Republic of Armenia has not any moral and legal rights to complain at the United Nations event such as the UNFCCC COP 21. Instead of such illegitimate complains, we invite the Republic of Armenia finally to commence to respect the spirit, norms and principles of the UN Charter and international law, and namely to start fulfillment of its commitments under the paragraph 25 of the UN Charter on implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884. Only after implementation by Armenia of the above-mentioned the UN Security Council Resolutions, we can ensure efficient mitigation and adaption actions in the whole South Caucasus region and to allow Azerbaijan fully realize its announced national contributions reflected in its INDC.

The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan requests the Secretariat of the UNFCCC to reflect our position stated in this statement in the official records of the 21st session of Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.