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**Promotion and protection of all human rights,
civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Note verbale dated 2 March 2020 from the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and, with reference to the comments of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food (A/HRC/43/44/Add.3), has the honour to draw the attention of the Office of the High Commissioner and the States Members of the United Nations to the fact that Azerbaijan abuses the framework of United Nations human rights mechanisms to push its narrow national political agenda and to disseminate misinformation it has fabricated.

To put the record straight: in response to the peaceful movement of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh for self-determination, Azerbaijan unleashed anti-Armenian massacres and a full-fledged military aggression. Thousands of innocent Armenians were brutally killed and maimed, while more than 350,000 were forcefully expelled. It was on the basis of this kind of anti-Armenian policy that Nobel Peace Prize winner Andrei Sakharov wrote “the Armenian people again face the threat of genocide”.

State-sponsored anti-Armenian xenophobia and intolerance continue to flourish in Azerbaijan, as has been recorded in a number of international reports, including by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance of the Council of Europe. The perpetrators of the violent and homicidal crimes against Armenians are decorated, welcomed and praised as heroes. Those in Azerbaijan who dare to speak about peace and reconciliation are not just persecuted and ostracized but also prosecuted and imprisoned. Azerbaijan has banned entry to the country of anyone whose name sounds or is presumed to be Armenian, irrespective of his or her citizenship.

When it comes to the peace process, Armenia reiterates the fact that Nagorno-Karabakh has never been part of an independent Azerbaijan, and Baku has never exercised any sovereignty over it. Nagorno-Karabakh held a referendum and declared independence in full compliance with both international law and the then-applicable constitutional-legislative framework of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

A resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is being mediated by the internationally agreed format of the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) (France, the Russian Federation and the United

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States of America). The Co-Chairs give full credit to the right of peoples to self-determination as one of the principles for the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. This position has been supported by all OSCE participating States, including Azerbaijan itself. Furthermore, the mediators have reiterated on numerous occasions that the future legal status of Nagorno-Karabakh should be determined by the legally binding free expression of will of its population. The United Nations supports the efforts of the mediators.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations Office and other international Organizations in Geneva kindly requests the Office of the High Commissioner to circulate the present note verbale as a document of the forty-third session of the Human Rights Council, under agenda item 3.
