



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

Forty-fourth session

30 June–17 July 2020

Agenda item 4

**Human rights situations that require the Council's attention**

### **Note verbale dated 30 June 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 has the honour to transmit herewith the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia on the occasion of the 102nd anniversary of the Heroic May Battles and the First Republic of Armenia (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of Armenia kindly requests the Office of the High Commissioner to circulate the present note verbale and the annex thereto\* as a document of the forty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council, under agenda item 4.

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\* Reproduced as received, in the language of submission only.

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**Annex to the note verbale dated 30 June 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**

**Statement by the Foreign Ministry dated 28 May 2020 on the occasion of the 102nd anniversary of Heroic May Battles and the First Republic of Armenia**

On May 28, Armenia and Armenians all over the world celebrate the 102nd anniversary of the Heroic May Battles and the First Republic of Armenia.

This special day of our millenia old history symbolizes two important messages: having been subjected to genocide in the greater part of their historical homeland, the Armenians and their fight for survival prevailed in Sardarapat, Bash-Aparan and Karakilisa battles, and by the May Victories the Armenian people have once and for all affirmed their right to exist.

Second, after more than five centuries, the Armenian statehood was restored, and the Republic of Armenia became a member of the international community. The First Republic was established during the days of the Great War and played an important role in the end of the First World War in our region, both on military and diplomatic fronts.

The Republic of Armenia actively participated in and eventually became a party to the international peace treaties which shaped the outcome of the WWI.

The First Republic of Armenia defended the right of the Armenian people to exist and self-determination in Artsakh as well, and the issue of the status of Artsakh was formulated as an international issue.

Despite its short period of existence, the First Republic laid foundations for political institutions in charge of domestic and foreign affairs, as well as established the objectives for the continued development of the Armenian statehood.

By uniting the struggle of national liberation and state building, this day up to now symbolizes the realization of two priority objectives of our statehood and all Armenians: sovereignty and security.

Congratulations to all of us on the occasion of the Heroic May Battles and the Republic Day.

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