

**Assemblée générale
Conseil de sécurité**

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Assemblée générale
Soixante-douzième session
Points 35 et 40 de l'ordre du jour

Conseil de sécurité
Soixante-treizième année

**Conflits prolongés dans la région du Groupe
GUAM et leurs incidences sur la paix
et la sécurité internationales
et sur le développement**

**La situation dans les territoires occupés
de l'Azerbaïdjan**

**Lettre datée du 13 février 2018, adressée au Secrétaire
général par le Représentant permanent de l'Azerbaïdjan
auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies**

D'ordre de mon gouvernement, j'ai l'honneur de soumettre à votre attention un mémorandum sur le problème de l'altération du paysage ethnoculturel dans les territoires azerbaïdjanais occupés par l'Arménie (voir annexe)*.

Je vous serais reconnaissant de bien vouloir faire distribuer le texte de la présente lettre et de son annexe comme document de l'Assemblée générale, au titre des points 35 et 40 de l'ordre du jour, et du Conseil de sécurité.

L'Ambassadeur,
Représentant permanent
(Signé) Yashar Aliyev

* L'annexe est distribuée uniquement dans la langue de l'original.



**Annexe à la lettre datée du 13 février 2018 adressée
au Secrétaire général par le Représentant permanent
de l'Azerbaïdjan auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies**

**Memorandum on the issue of changing the ethnocultural features
in the territories of Azerbaijan occupied by Armenia**

The Republic of Azerbaijan has regularly presented to the international community the irrefutable evidence attesting to consistent and deliberate measures undertaken by Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan with a view to changing the Azerbaijani ethnocultural features of these territories and consolidating the current status quo of the occupation.

Such measures by Armenia include, inter alia, conducting illegal archaeological excavations in historical places in the occupied territories and distorting their results, perpetrating barbarian acts of destruction of the Azerbaijani historical monuments of national and world importance, including mosques and other sacred shrines, presenting non-Armenian churches as their own, removing any traces of Azerbaijani cultural and historical roots, changing toponyms, falsifying inscriptions on the monuments and constructing other fake narratives.

In this regard, attempts by Armenia to use the religious factor to substantiate its policy of territorial expansionism and present its aggression against Azerbaijan as a religious conflict should be a matter of special concern for the international community.

Armenia defaces the Azerbaijani image of the occupied territories also by the methods of construction of Armenian churches therein. For example, the Armenian side has recently completed the construction of another Armenian church in the occupied Jabrayil district of the Republic of Azerbaijan (see attached photographs).*

In this context, Armenia bears full responsibility for violation of international humanitarian law, including the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the Protocols of 1954 and 1999 thereto, which, inter alia, prohibit and prevent in relation to occupied territory any archaeological excavation or any alteration to, or change of use of, cultural property which is intended to conceal or destroy cultural, historical or scientific evidence.

Deliberate change of the ethnocultural picture of Jabrayil and other towns and settlements in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan attests once more that Armenia has no intention of withdrawing from the occupied territories and spares no effort to secure annexation of these territories and to mislead the international community about the roots and consequences of the conflict.

Azerbaijan calls upon the international community, in particular the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and its Co-Chairs, to condemn internationally wrongful acts of Armenia related to altering Azerbaijani ethnocultural features of the occupied territories and exercise pressure on this State to oblige it to denounce its territorial claims towards Azerbaijan and to end the occupation of the Azerbaijani territories, as provided for in Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993).

* On file with the Secretariat and available for consultation.