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Point 4 de l'ordre du jour

**Situations relatives aux droits de l'homme
qui requièrent l'attention du Conseil**

Note verbale datée du 6 juin 2019, adressée au Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme par la Mission permanente de l'Azerbaïdjan auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève

La Mission permanente de la République d'Azerbaïdjan auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des autres organisations internationales à Genève présente ses compliments au Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme et a l'honneur de lui faire tenir ci-joint la déclaration faite par le Ministère des affaires étrangères de la République d'Azerbaïdjan à l'occasion du vingt-septième anniversaire de l'occupation de la ville de Shusha par les forces armées de la République d'Arménie, en 1992 (voir annexe).

La Mission permanente de la République d'Azerbaïdjan auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des autres organisations internationales à Genève prie le Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme de bien vouloir faire distribuer la présente note verbale et son annexe* comme document de la quarante et unième session du Conseil des droits de l'homme, au titre du point 4 de l'ordre du jour.

* L'annexe est reproduite telle qu'elle a été reçue, dans la langue de l'original seulement.



**Annex to the note verbale dated 6 June 2019 from the
Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations
Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United
Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic
of Azerbaijan on the 27th anniversary of occupation of the
city of Shusha**

On May 8, 1992, the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia occupied a historical Azerbaijani city of Shusha. As a result of the occupation, Shusha city and 30 villages of Shusha district were destroyed, 195 innocent civilians were killed, 165 were wounded and 58 persons went missing. More than 24.000 inhabitants of Shusha were subjected to ethnic cleansing.

The occupation of Shusha was part of Armenia's systematic policy of occupation and aggression against Azerbaijan. As an outcome of this policy, Armenia occupied the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven adjacent districts of Azerbaijan by use of force, conducted notorious ethnic cleansing against more than one million Azerbaijanis in the seized territories and committed other serious war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Along with being an inalienable part of the internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan, occupied Shusha city has outstanding historical, cultural, moral and symbolic meaning for the people of Azerbaijan. Occupation of Shusha city - known as "Cradle of the Azerbaijani music", "Conservatory of the Orient" inflicted heavy damage to the cultural, spiritual and moral heritage of the people of Azerbaijan.

In the framework of the deliberate policy of destruction of Armenia, plundering, desecration and embezzlement of cultural and religious heritage of Azerbaijan in the occupied territories, only in Shusha, more than 170 buildings with the status of architectural monument, 160 cultural and historical monuments, mosques, rare manuscripts were destroyed and subjected to vandalism or artificial change of their appearance.

"Imarat complex and library of Panah Khan", Khan Palace and Karvansaray, Ashaghy Govharagha and Saatly Mosques, Mausoleum of Vagif, Natavan's House and many others are among them.

The occupying Armenian side, following the ethnic cleansing conducted in course of Shusha's occupation, in contradiction to the requirements of international humanitarian law, destroys the historical and cultural heritage of Azerbaijan and gradually changes the cultural image of the city.

Thus, about 4 thousand people were illegally resettled in Shusha. The Yukhary Govheraga (Juma) Mosque, built by the order of Govharaga, the daughter of Karabakh ruler Ibrahim Khan, is being "restored" by the Armenians and is presented as a Persian one. All these clearly demonstrate the intentions of the occupiers to shadow the fact that Shusha is a prominent Azerbaijani city. But all these attempts have no prospects. The Armenian side has to understand that the occupation is temporary, and the Nagorno-Karabakh region has always been and will remain inalienable part of Azerbaijan.

The visit of the Armenian political leadership to the Shusha city, kept under military occupation by them and celebrating the so-called "victory day" is yet another provocation of the Armenian side and demonstrates once again the direct participation of Armenia in the occupation of the Azerbaijani territories. This step of the Armenian leadership proves once again that Armenia exercises the effective control over the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, as it is confirmed by the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights on "Chiragov and others v. Armenia" case of 16 June 2015.

The position of the international community is unequivocal: According to the position of all international organizations and states of the world, including the resolutions

adopted by the UN Security Council, Nagorno-Karabakh recognized as an integral part of Azerbaijan. The international community requires immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of occupying forces from all the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan is the most interested party in the soonest negotiated settlement of the conflict. However, if the negotiations fail to bring as an outcome withdrawal of the armed forces of Armenia from our occupied lands, Azerbaijan retains its inherent rights under the UN Charter to ensure the restoration of its sovereignty and territorial integrity within the internationally recognized borders.
