Nations Unies A/HRC/48/G/16



Distr. générale 2 février 2022 Français

Original: anglais

Conseil des droits de l'homme Quarante-huitième session 13 septembre-1<sup>er</sup> octobre 2021 Point 4 de l'ordre du jour Situations relatives aux droits de l'homme

qui requièrent l'attention du Conseil

Note verbale datée du 25 novembre 2021, 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 fait tenir, ci-joint, des informations fournies par le Service de presse du Ministère des affaires étrangères de la République d'Azerbaïdjan (voir annexe).

La Mission permanente prie le Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme de bien vouloir distribuer la présente note verbale et son annexe\* en tant que document du Conseil des droits de l'homme, au titre du point 4 de l'ordre du jour.



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

Annex to the note verbale dated 25 November 2021 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

Head of the Press Service Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan answers the local media's question on the comment of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Armenia regarding the dispatch of the UNESCO mission

Answer: Unfortunately, the Armenian Foreign Ministry still suffers from so-called amnesic syndrome. In this case, we remind the opposite side once more that Armenia pursuing a policy of aggression against Azerbaijan, keeping a part of its internationally-recognized territories under military occupation nearly for 30 years, bears responsibility for military crimes such as deliberate destruction, misappropriation and alteration of historical, cultural and religious heritage in these lands, illicit removal of our cultural heritage from the country. Numerous appeals have been made to UNESCO by Azerbaijan regarding the dispatch of the mission to the region for investigation of these war crimes and it was exactly Armenia, who prevented international missions to visit Azerbaijani territories under occupation at that time. This fact has been reflected in the reports of the organization; We recommend the Armenian Foreign Ministry to get acquainted with the activity report of UNESCO published in 2005. The report clearly states that the government of Azerbaijan has requested a fact-finding mission to Nagorno-Karabakh and other occupied surrounding territories, but due to the military occupation of Armenia this mission has not been possible.

The scale of deliberate destruction, committed by Armenia in these lands, have been noted comprehensively by the international community, including the official representatives of states, independent media agencies, at the same time non-governmental organizations, etc. after Azerbaijan liberated its territories from occupation.

False and absurd accusations against Azerbaijan by a country, which committed unprecedented vandalism and "cultural cleansing", with the aim to cover up its deeds is, unfortunately, not new. The Armenian side should finally understand that this experience has no perspective.

Azerbaijan has commented on many times about the dispatch of the UNESCO's independent and objective mission in our liberated territories and even called for the acceleration of the process. As official Yerevan declared that they do not object to the implementation of such a mission, we hope that the mission will be sent soon and results of the policy of deliberate destruction of historical, cultural, and religious heritage, pursued by Armenia for decades, will be recorded.

**2** GE.22-01286