

## Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the 19<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of HCOC

12 October 2020

Mr. Chairman,

Let me first of all express our gratitude to Norway for all the work and efforts undertaken during its HCoC chairmanship. We also congratulate Switzerland on assuming chairmanship. My delegation would also like to thank Austria for its efficient support to the Code as the Immediate Central Contact in Vienna.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to draw attention of distinguished delegations to large-scale military provocation by Armenia against Azerbaijan along the frontline starting from 27 September. It is particularly disturbing that in the framework of its new aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan the armed forces of Armenia are deliberately targeting the civilian population and strategically important infrastructure of Azerbaijan with **ballistic missiles** in violation of fundamental norms and principles of international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as Armenia's relevant international obligations.

It should be noted that **"Tochka-U" and "Scud" tactical ballistic missiles** are used by the armed forces of Armenia to deliberately target the residential areas and other civilian objects in Azerbaijan situated far away from the combat zone. On 4 October, the Turkoba village of the Khizi district of Azerbaijan, situated 200 km from the frontline and about 80 km from the capital city of Baku and the Pirekeshkul village of the Absheron district of Azerbaijan, situated about 250 km from the combat zone and only 15 km from Baku were hit with **"Scud" tactical ballistic missiles**. Armenia expands geography of its attacks close to the capital Baku, which hosts 3 mln. people. On 9 October, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reported that a **ballistic missile fired from the 9K72 Elbrus operational-tactical missile system** from the territory of Armenia in the direction of Mingachevir was detected and destroyed by Azerbaijan's Air Defence Systems. On the night of October 11, immediately after establishment of a humanitarian ceasefire, Armenia fired ballistic **missile Tochka-U** to Ganja city, the second largest city in Azerbaijan and far beyond the frontline with deliberate goal of killing civilians. Armenia's use of ballistic missile is not in line with its commitments under HCOC .

Since the outbreak of hostilities on 27 September 2020, in total, 41 Azerbaijani civilians were killed and 207 civilians were wounded, 1185 residential buildings, 57 multi-apartment residential buildings and 148 civilian facilities, including hospitals, medical facilities, ambulances, schools, kindergartens and energy infrastructure, were either destroyed or damaged as a result of Armenia's shelling of cities, towns and villages in Azerbaijan.

In order to repulse the aggression and ensure the safety of the civilian population, the armed forces of Azerbaijan launched the counter-offensive operation, neutralizing Armenian fire and stronghold battle positions and liberating the sovereign territories of Azerbaijan from enemy occupation, in the exercise of right of self-defense and in full compliance with international humanitarian law, exclusively on Azerbaijan's sovereign soil.

We urge Armenia to obey norms and principles of international law, including its obligations under the international humanitarian law, and implement the demands of the UN Security Council resolutions for immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.