



OPCW

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AZERBAIJAN

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR FIKRAT AKHUNDOV
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan would like to exercise its right to reply with regards to the false and baseless claims presented by the delegation of the Republic of Armenia in the framework of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties (“the Conference”), alleging that Azerbaijan used incendiary weapons, containing “probably white phosphorus” in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

In this regard, we would like to highlight the following points.

For almost 30 years, Armenia had occupied sovereign territories of Azerbaijan, conducted ethnic cleansing, and illegally stationed its armed forces in these areas. On 27 September 2020, the armed forces of Armenia, blatantly violating the ceasefire regime, launched another aggression against Azerbaijan with the aim of annexing the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. This act of aggression was preceded by a number of political provocative statements by the Armenian political-military leadership, which led the peace process to stagnation. In order to repel the military aggression and provocations by Armenia, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan had to take counter-offensive measures within the right of self-defence and in full compliance with the international humanitarian law. During the 44-day war, Armenia used prohibited and deadly weapons, such as ballistic missiles and cluster munitions, to attack Barda, Ganja, Terter, and other civilian areas of Azerbaijan far beyond the conflict zone. Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International documented multiple such attacks.

Secondly, white phosphorous, which is mainly used for military-technical purposes, indeed does not fall under the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”). This statement of the delegation of Armenia proves once again that this country distorts and twists the facts, spreads falsifications, and deceives the international community, including the OPCW, with the aim of promoting the illegal entity that it established in the formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan asks the OPCW community to disregard these falsifications, as they did in previous cases. We also urge the delegation of the Republic of Armenia to stop abusing



the OPCW platform for purposes not related to its mandate, and disseminating false information to justify its illegal activities on the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Armenia should comply with international law, renounce its territorial claims, and seize the opportunity, long proposed by Azerbaijan, to establish inter-state relations based on mutual recognition of and respect for each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and inviolability of international borders.

It should also be noted that the relevant authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan have officially stated that the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan do not have any prohibited munitions; neither does it have incendiary weapons in its armament. Azerbaijan does not possess nor has particular interest in using such munitions on its own territory. Military operations conducted by the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan during the 44-day war were aimed against military targets of Armenia, illegally stationed on the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Despite its false allegations, it was Armenia that used white phosphorous during the 44-day war and in 2016. These facts were well documented and reported on numerous occasions by the Azerbaijani side. We presented relevant facts to the States Parties during the Twenty-Fifth Session of Conference as a response to another attempt by Armenia to abuse the OPCW platform. White phosphorous munitions have been used by Armenia not only against civilians of Azerbaijan, but also with the purpose of smoke screening for complicating activities of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan and burning forests.

Meanwhile, assaults and speculations against Turkey are equally groundless and unsubstantiated, and should be rejected in the strongest terms.

By making false and baseless claims, Armenia tries to mislead the international community. We invite the Technical Secretariat to explain to officials of the Armenian delegation the scope, letter, and spirit of the Convention, so that they stop misusing the OPCW platform.

I request this document to be circulated as an official document of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference and post it on the external server and the official website of the Organisation.

Thank you.

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