

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. FIKRAT AKHUNDOV, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE
OPCW

AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
STATES PARTIES

The Hague, 30 November – 4 December 2020

Mr. Chairperson,

Mr. Director-General,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan would like to exercise its right of reply with regards to the baseless claims presented by Armenian Delegation in the framework of the CSP-25, alleging that Azerbaijan used so-called white phosphorus in Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

Like in other international organizations, Armenia is also trying to use OPCW platform for purposes not related to its mandate. Armenia is disseminating false information in order to justify its illegal occupation of Azerbaijani territories for almost 28 years, as well as to cast a shadow on counter-offensive measures conducted by Armed Forces of Azerbaijan in and around Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan within the right of self-defence.

In this regard we would like to highlight following points:

1. Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defence officially stated that Azerbaijan's Armed Forces do not have any prohibited munition in its armament. Azerbaijan neither possesses nor has particular interest in using such munitions on its own territory.
2. All recent military operations conducted by Armed Forces of Azerbaijan were aimed against military targets of Armenia, illegally stationed on the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Most of these territories were uninhabited and civilians were not living there.

3. Contrary to the baseless Armenian claims, the use of white phosphorous by Armenia on numerous occasions in 2020¹ and 2016² was evidenced and reported by Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action. WP munitions have been used by Armenia not only against civilians of Azerbaijan but also with the purpose of smoke screening for complicating UAV activities of the Azerbaijan's Armed Forces.
4. Furthermore, Armenia has been using toxic chemicals for many years, through deliberately contaminating Azerbaijani rivers flowing from the territories which Armenia controls and thus, endangering lives of civilians.
5. White phosphorus, mentioned by Armenia, indeed does not fall under the Chemical Weapons Convention. The use of white phosphorus is regulated by other relevant international conventions. Armenia's claims are aimed at misleading the international community. It has already tried to bring this issue to the attention of the OPCW through its Permanent Representations in Vienna and the Hague. These attempts of Armenia have failed.

Taking all of this into account, we call on the State Parties to the CWC and the Technical Secretariat to disregard Armenia's attempts to misuse the OPCW platform for its narrow and biased political agenda.

I request this document to be circulated as an official document of the CSP-25.

Thank you.

¹ <http://anama.gov.az/daily-info/3577> (03.11.2020), <http://anama.gov.az/daily-info/3523> (08.10.2020)

² https://un.mfa.gov.az/files/file/Statement_on_the_use_of_white_phosphorus_bomb.pdf