

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR TIGRAN BALAYAN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO OPCW AT THE 25TH SESSION OF THE OPCW CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES

Mr. Chairperson,

Mr. Director-General,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It would have been naive to assume that the delegation of Azerbaijan could refrain from confirming our worst suspicions of the deliberate actions of the Azerbaijani side (backed militarily and politically by Turkey) under certain circumstances, including the military aggression against Artsakh/Nagorno-Karabakh.

Most probably our Azerbaijani colleagues are not aware that in certain cases the silence is the ultimate weapon of power, as at least it may pervert oneself from uncovering the true intentions of one's actions. More specifically, in an attempt to blame the Armenian side for “disseminating false information” and using the platform of the organization for purposes not related to its mandate, the Azerbaijani side is actually bringing the details of the conflict to the attention of the States Parties, which have indeed nothing to do with the mandate of this organization, trying to justify its aggression with quite interesting allegations towards Armenia, whilst the Armenian side not only refrained from mentioning any incident other than the alleged use of a chemical weapon, but also raised the matter of unacceptability of any use of chemical weapons in a collateral and covert manner, which should have been within the interest of Azerbaijan as well.

We would highly appreciate to learn in which part of our National Statement one could read any indication of the causes of the conflict, any other detail on the start of the recent military actions or prehistory of our relations.

We would like to spare everyone's time and not address the ridiculous claims of Azerbaijan on the absence of civilian population in the territories attacked by the Azerbaijani armed forces, or the targets being military, as it is out of any discussion that our understanding of a “military target” does not coincide with the one our Azerbaijani colleagues have. We would also refrain from addressing the claims under point 3 and 4 of the statement of Azerbaijan. Yet we would like to draw States Parties' attention to the very fact that the Republic of Azerbaijan reserves itself a right to decide whether a use of a certain chemical does or does not fall under a certain convention.

Coming back to the arguments of our side we would also like to draw States Parties attention to the [corresponding report on the matter](#), where one can find more detailed evidence of the basis the Armenian side used for requesting a corresponding assistance in investigation of the incident of the use of a white phosphorus.