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AZERBAIJAN

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR FIKRAT AKHUNDOV
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AZERBAIJANI REPUBLIC
TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
IN EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF REPLY TO THE DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OPCW**

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

The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan would like to exercise its right of reply with regards to the baseless claims presented by the Armenian delegation in the framework of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, alleging that Azerbaijan used so-called white phosphorus in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

Like in other international organisations, Armenia is also trying to use the 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 counteroffensive measures conducted by Armed Forces of Azerbaijan in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan within the right of self-defence.

In this regard we would like to highlight the 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. White phosphorus munitions have been used by

¹ See Annexes 1 and 2.

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



Armenia not only against civilians of Azerbaijan, but also with the purpose of smoke screening for complicating unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) activities of 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 by Armenia have failed.

Taking all of this into account, we call on the States Parties to the Convention 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 Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference.

Thank you.

Annexes:



Annex 1: Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action Operational Report (3 November 2020)

Annex 2: Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action Operational Report (8 October 2020)

Annex 1

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E-mail: novbetchi@anama.gov.az Web: www.anama.gov.az <https://web.facebook.com/official.anama.gov.az>  https://twitter.com/ANAMA_gov_az**OPERATIONAL REPORT**

on the special emergency clearance operations

executed along the frontline territory by ANAMA

November 3, 2020

On 3 November, 2020 ANAMA received **24** (twenty four) emergency calls from the "102 " Service Call Center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and **1** (one) call from the Crisis Management Center of the Ministry of Emergency Situations about shells falling on the territory of Agjabadi, Aghdam, Barda, Beylagan, Fizuli and Tartar regions.

As response action to the reported **25** emergency calls ANAMA in close coordination with the specialists of the Ministry of Internal Affairs conducted **23 emergency and operational clearance field missions** in Minakhorlu village of Agjabedi region, Afatli village of Aghdam region, Barda region, Alkhanli village of Fuzuli region, Kocharli, Qaynaq, Gazyan, Sahlabad, Yenikend villages, A.Ismayilov, H.Aslanov, T.Rahimov streets of Tartar region. As reported **2 pieces of 122 mm D-4 white phosphorus (P-4) artillery shell, 1 piece of 300 mm missile (9M528), 1 piece of meteorological radio direction detector for military purposes and 25 explosive shell remnants** were found as a result of the mission.

ANAMA's detonation team neutralized **2 pieces of 122 mm D-4 white phosphorus (P-4) artillery shell, 1 piece of 300 mm missile (9M528)**. Mine Awareness Specialists conducted **mine safety awareness** campaign among **42 777 civilians**.

In general, from **September 27 to November 3, 2020**, ANAMA executed **945 special operational emergency field visits** as response action to **1120 signals** (operational calls). In line with the agreed Plan of Action special fact finding missions were executed in the residential areas near the oil pipeline, territory of Mingachevir TPP, Baku-Tbilisi-Jeyhan (BTJ) Pipeline, arable and pasture areas, roadsides, forests, schools in Aghdam, Agdash, Agjabadi, Barda, Beylagan, Bilasuvar, Jabrayil, Goranboy, Naftalan, Fuzuli, Tartar, Tovuz, Shamkir, Hajigabul, Zardab, Khizi, Oghuz, Gebele districts, Ganja and Mingachevir cities, as a result of which **317 unexploded ordnance (UXO), 1 627 pieces of anti-personnel mines, 276 pieces of anti-tank mines, explosives of 460 anti-tank mines, 76 pieces of detonators, 1 173 pieces of 9N235 type bomblets, 1 180 bullets of various calibers, 1 piece of gas-grenade, 21 pieces of meteorological radio direction detectors for military purposes, 6 drones, 2 missiles schemes and 723 exploded missile parts** were found.





Annex 2





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OPERATIONAL REPORT

on the special emergency clearance operations
executed along the frontline territory by ANAMA

October 8, 2020

One **smoke type 122 mm artillery shell (D-4)** fired by the Armenian armed forces was detected on October 8, 2020 during the fact-finding mission carried out by ANAMA's special mobile emergency operation teams in Fizuli region. The shell contains **3.6 kg of white phosphorus (P-4)**, the use of which is prohibited against civilians and facilities in accordance with the requirements and principles of the International Humanitarian Law.

In general, from **September 27 to October 8, 2020**, ANAMA executed **313 special operational emergency field visits** as response action to 339 signals (operational calls). In line with the agreed Plan of Action special fact finding missions were executed in Aghdam, Aghdash, Aghjabadi, Barda, Beylagan, Bilasuvar, Jabrayil, Goranboy, Naftalan, Fizuli, Tartar, Shamkir, Hajigabul, Zardab districts, Ganja and Mingachevir cities as a result of which **73 unexploded ordnances (UXO)**, 598 bomblets, **6 meteorological radio direction finders** used for military purposes, **2 suicide drone (detonated on site)**, **2 missile micro-schemes** and **100 elements of exploded rockets** were found near the oil pipeline, on the territory of Mingachevir TPP, near the Baku-Tbilisi-Jeyhan (BTJ) pipeline, sowing and pasture areas, roadside, forest massif and schools.



