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Agenda items 30, 66, 67, 68 and 132**Security Council**
Seventy-seventh year**Prevention of armed conflict****Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia
and related intolerance****Right of peoples to self-determination****Promotion and protection of human rights****The responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide,
war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity****Letter dated 20 December 2022 from the Permanent
Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

I have the honour to enclose herewith the appeal from the President of the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh Republic), Arayik Harutyunyan, in relation to the illegal blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh caused by the closure of the Lachin corridor by Azerbaijan, in violation of the Trilateral Statement of 9 November 2020, international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

In the face of the imminent humanitarian crisis, the urgent and efficient response of the international community to Azerbaijan's violations of international humanitarian law is vital to restore the freedom and security of movement to and from Nagorno-Karabakh and to address the humanitarian needs of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh.

I kindly ask that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 30, 66, 67, 68 and 132, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mher **Margaryan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 20 December 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Letter dated 19 December 2022 from the President of the Artsakh Republic addressed to the Secretary-General

On December 12, 2022, a group of people acting under false pretenses and manifestly under the instructions and guidance of the authorities of Azerbaijan intruded on the only road connecting the Republic of Artsakh to the Republic of Armenia and the rest of the world – the Lachin corridor – and blocked the traffic in and out of Artsakh. The unit of the Russian peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation on duty in this area formed lines to prevent Azerbaijanis from further direct provocations against the people of Artsakh.

The blockade of the Lachin corridor to this day, coupled with the three-day interruption of gas supplies to Artsakh, have created a humanitarian emergency. The daily delivery of 400 tons of foodstuffs and other basic goods from Armenia to Artsakh is disrupted. The healthcare system is seriously affected. Medical supplies are running short. Patients in need of urgent medical care cannot be transported to Armenia for professional care. Scheduled surgeries have been temporarily halted. Since the imposition of the blockade 20 babies were born in Artsakh, while childcare items are now undersupplied. More than 1100 people, including 270 children cannot return and reunite with their families in Artsakh. The ongoing blockade and exposure to high risks of repeated disruption of gas supplies and damage to other vital infrastructure, all while temperatures continue to drop, are cause for grave concern. Artsakh is entirely encircled and cut off from the rest of the world. The present situation reveals clear warning signs of an emerging humanitarian disaster.

Free and unimpeded operation of the Lachin corridor is guaranteed by paragraph 6 of the Trilateral Statement of 9 November 2020, which states: “The Lachin corridor (5 km wide) which will ensure the communication between Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia and at the same time will circumvent the city of Shushi, shall remain under the control of the Peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation.” The blockade of the road by Azerbaijan is a gross violation of the provisions of the Statement.

The present situation is the latest manifestation of ongoing systematic violations of international law, international human rights and humanitarian law committed by the authorities of Azerbaijan, over the past two years since the signing of the Trilateral Statement of 9 November 2020. It is an evidence of the collective punishment of the people of Artsakh and represents a serious risk factor, which if not urgently addressed, may cause significant deterioration in the well-being and security of the population, as well as result in loss of human lives.

The international community has a legal, political, moral and ethical responsibility to prevent the emerging crisis and protect the population of Artsakh from the further commission of crimes against them. The present risk factors indicate the potential, the probability or an enabling environment for the occurrence of atrocity crimes against the people of Artsakh. Early prevention of them is urgently required. In this context the Order of the International Court of Justice of 7 December 2021 which recorded existence of the state-level policy of Armenophobia and racial discrimination in Azerbaijan is a relevant reference point.

We urge the community of states, in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, to take effective and necessary individual or collective measures to contribute to the maintenance of peace and security in Artsakh, as well

as to ensure conditions for full enjoyment of human rights (including the right to self-determination).

We believe that the following actions will play a decisive role in this context:

1. Engage the United Nations Security Council, which has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, with the situation in Artsakh and adopt a resolution under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which will:

(a) Demand from Azerbaijan to immediately unblock the Lachin corridor and remove all obstacles to safe and uninterrupted transport communications along this corridor.

(b) Decide to apply the necessary international tools for the safe, stable and long-term development of Artsakh, in order to maintain and strengthen the ceasefire regime established by the Trilateral Statement of November 9, 2020. This will make it possible to take all necessary measures to protect civilians who are under the direct threat of physical attack and to prevent any attempts to threaten peace in the region. Under such conditions, an appropriate environment will be created for holding peace talks between Artsakh and Azerbaijan in an international format aimed at establishing a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region.

(c) Take immediate measures to guarantee safe and unhindered ground communication between the Republic of Artsakh and the Republic of Armenia in accordance with the Trilateral Statement of November 9, 2020, and make efforts to create opportunities for passenger and cargo transportation through air transport;

(d) Demand Azerbaijan to immediately comply with the Order of the International Court of Justice of 7 December 2021 indicating provisional measures

(e) Request the Secretary General to deploy a UN political mission in Artsakh, which will monitor the human rights violations by Azerbaijan, coordinate humanitarian assistance, as well as support the settlement of the conflict between Artsakh and Azerbaijan, and to regularly report to the Council

(f) Request the Secretary General and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to ensure an effective humanitarian response to the situation in Artsakh,

(g) Request the Secretary General to use early warning mechanisms available to him and to assess risk factors and indicators of commission of atrocity crimes against the people of Artsakh, and to report to the Council,

(h) Invite relevant bodies and agencies of the UN system, including but not limited to the OHCHR, UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women to monitor and adequately assess the situation in Artsakh on matters which fall within their respective mandates.

(i) Invite UNESCO to dispatch independent experts to Artsakh, including to the territories of Artsakh currently under occupation to carry out an inventory of the Armenian cultural properties and take other necessary measure aimed at effective protection of the Armenian heritage.

2. Engage the UN Secretary General to take a proactive stance in raising awareness and alerting the international community about the situation in Artsakh and the risks to which its population is exposed, to visit Artsakh personally in demonstration of his solidarity with the people at risk in Artsakh, and to ensure regular monitoring of the situation through a designated representative.

3. Engage the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote and protect the enjoyment and full

realization by all people of all human rights in monitoring and adequately assessing the human rights situation in Artsakh. Adequate assessment of the systematic violation of human rights of the people of Artsakh by Azerbaijan will become one of the effective guarantees of their non-repetition or non-recurrence in the future.

4. Engage treaty-based and charter-based UN human rights mechanisms with the situation in Artsakh

(a) Adequately assess violations of the individual and collective human rights of the people of Artsakh,

(b) Establish UN mandated investigative body to respond to the situation in Artsakh and address the serious violation by Azerbaijan of international human rights law.

The Charter of the United Nations is written on behalf of the peoples of the world. The people of Artsakh are an integral part of the peoples of the world and is guided by the values and principles of the UN Charter. We, the people of Artsakh, have faith in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person. We have been experiencing a prolonged history of challenge and threat to our security and dignity. We will face challenges and are committed to a peaceful and secure future for Artsakh and for the region. We rely on the solidarity of the international community and urge them to demonstrate in action their commitment to international peace, security, development and human rights, which considers Artsakh in equal terms.

(Signed) Arayik **Harutyunyan**
