

17. Letter dated 13 September 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2022/688](#))

During the period under review, the Council held two meetings under the item entitled “Letter dated 13 September 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2022/688](#))”. Both meetings took the form of briefings.⁵⁶¹ More information on the meetings, including on participants and speakers is provided in the table below.⁵⁶²

In 2023, the Council heard briefings from the Director of Operations and Advocacy of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Assistant Secretary General for Europe, Central Asia and Americas of the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations.⁵⁶³ The representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan participated and delivered statements in both meetings.

On 16 August, the Council held at a meeting further to a letter from Armenia.⁵⁶⁴ In her briefing, the Director of Operations and Advocacy reported that while OCHA was not in a position to verify information regarding the movement of people or goods through the Lachin corridor, or on the well-being of civilians in areas where Russian peacekeepers had been deployed, she was aware of ongoing reports, including shortages of food and medicines and disruption to energy supplies.⁵⁶⁵ OCHA was in regular contact with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which remained the only international humanitarian body that had access to the area. Referring to an ICRC statement of 25 July noting the inability to transport humanitarian assistance through the Lachin corridor, she recalled that parties to conflicts must allow and facilitate the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief for all civilians in need. The Director also recalled the Secretary-General’s concern about reports of the deteriorating humanitarian situation on the

⁵⁶¹ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II.

⁵⁶² See also, [A/78/2](#), part II, chap. 41.

⁵⁶³ See [S/PV.9397](#) and [S/PV.9422](#).

⁵⁶⁴ See [S/2023/594](#).

⁵⁶⁵ See [S/PV.9397](#).

ground, calling for urgent steps to facilitate access.⁵⁶⁶ She concluded by reaffirming that OCHA and United Nations country teams in both Armenia and Azerbaijan would continue to engage with the parties to ensure a response to the humanitarian needs.

Following the briefing, Council members expressed concern over the humanitarian situation on the ground and stressed the urgent need to achieve a peaceful settlement of disputes. Many speakers emphasized the importance of respecting and adhering to the International Court Justice order issued on 22 February 2023,⁵⁶⁷ which demanded the unimpeded movement of persons, vehicles and cargo along the Lachin Corridor in both directions.⁵⁶⁸ Further, several Council members expressed support for the mediation efforts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), specifically of the Minsk Group,⁵⁶⁹ as well as those of the European Union.⁵⁷⁰ The representative of Ghana noted the positive role played by the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CTSO) while some speakers called for the preservation of and compliance with the trilateral statements brokered by the Russian Federation in 2020.⁵⁷¹ Moreover, the representatives of Albania, the Russian Federation and the European Union reiterated Armenia and Azerbaijan's commitment to the Alma-Ata Declaration of 1991, affirming the mutual recognition of one another's territorial integrity. The representative of the Russian Federation, outlining his country's efforts to resolve the existing crisis, added that both sides took under consideration the compromises proposed during the talks among the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia held in Moscow on 25 July. He also called for a responsible approach to the use of the Council as a platform in that context and noted that the dispute should be resolved between the parties.

Taking the floor after the Council members, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia recalled the trilateral statement signed by the leaders of Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan in 2020, which affirmed that the Lachin corridor should remain under the control of the Russian Federation

⁵⁶⁶ See [SG/SM/21896](#).

⁵⁶⁷ For more information on relations with the International Court of Justice, see part IV, sect. III.

⁵⁶⁸ See [S/PV.9397](#), France, Japan, Ghana, Malta, Switzerland, Ecuador, Mozambique, United Kingdom and European Union.

⁵⁶⁹ Ibid., Ghana, Malta, Ecuador and Mozambique.

⁵⁷⁰ Ibid., France, Ghana, Albania, Malta, Ecuador, Mozambique and United Kingdom. For more information on the discussions within the framework of Chapter VIII of the Charter, see part VIII, sect. II.

⁵⁷¹ Ibid., Gabon, Brazil, Malta, Switzerland, Ecuador, Mozambique, Russian Federation and European Union.

peacemaking forces. Nonetheless, on 12 December 2022, Azerbaijan had blocked it on “a fake pretext of environmental concerns”, and Azerbaijan’s installation of a checkpoint at the Lachin corridor had led to a full blockage to Nagorno-Karabakh in 2023, in violation of the decision of the International Court of Justice. In that connection, the Minister requested the Council to, among other things, i) condemn the use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare, ii) call for the immediate restoration of freedom and security through the Lachin corridor and iii) dispatch an independent inter-agency needs assessment mission to Nagorno-Karabakh. He also underlined the importance of full compliance with obligations under international humanitarian law.

The representative of Azerbaijan rejected what he described as the unfounded and groundless allegations by Armenia, arguing that the Karabakh region was an internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan with ethnic Armenian residents, and therefore, the “so-called Lachin corridor” was a road within the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan without any extraterritorial status. In that regard, he opined that the establishment of the border checkpoint, which had not impeded civilian movement, had been in exercise of Azerbaijan’s inherent right to safeguard its sovereignty and security and prevent what he described as an abuse by Armenia for illegal military activities. He added that the unanimous decision by the International Court of Justice on 6 July dismissing Armenia’s request to remove the checkpoint rejected its allegations that the checkpoint was illegal. The representative of Azerbaijan called on Armenia to engage in post-conflict normalization negotiations.

On 21 September, the Council convened a high-level meeting further to a letter from Armenia.⁵⁷² At the meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas, who reported that, on 19 September, Azerbaijan had announced the launch of “local counter-terrorism activities in the Karabakh economic region”, which indicated a serious escalation in military operations.⁵⁷³ Recalling the Secretary-General’s extreme concern over the resumption of hostilities and its impact on the fragile humanitarian situation, he noted the persistent pattern of numerous ceasefire violations. Despite these developments, the Assistant Secretary-General highlighted positive steps, including the earlier announcement of a cessation of hostilities and the initial exchange between representatives of the

⁵⁷² See [S/2023/687](#).

⁵⁷³ See [S/PV.9422](#).

local population and the Government of Azerbaijan and reaffirmed the readiness of the Secretariat to conduct humanitarian needs assessments if given access and provide assistance as needed.

Following the briefing, Council discussions focused on the importance of dialogue and mediation as peaceful means to resolve the ongoing conflict. Council members expressed their concern over the escalation of hostilities and welcomed the ceasefire agreement announced on the prior day, calling on the parties to respect and implement the agreement.⁵⁷⁴ All Council members also encouraged the parties to resolve all disputes through diplomacy and dialogue. With several speakers emphasizing the importance of respecting the principle of sovereignty and territorial integrity,⁵⁷⁵ the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania encouraged both parties to build on their reaffirmation of commitment to the 1991 Alma-Ata Declaration. In a similar vein, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy called on Azerbaijan to agree to the delimitation of the bilateral border between the two countries, in line with the Declaration. Some Council members further prompted the parties to fully abide by and implement the trilateral agreement of 9 November 2020,⁵⁷⁶ and reiterated the need to respect and comply with the decisions issued by the International Court of Justice.⁵⁷⁷ Finally, several speakers recalled the ongoing mediation efforts in the region, including those of the Russian Federation, the European Union or other Member States.⁵⁷⁸ The representative of the Russian Federation stressed that the Russian peacekeeping contingent continued to carry out its mission, reporting that, with its active mediation, an agreement on a full cessation of the fighting had been reached on 20 September.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia stated that Azerbaijan's large-scale offensive against the people of Nagorno-Karabakh was a violation of international law and the trilateral statement of 9 November 2020. The Minister opined that the intensity and cruelty of the offensive made it clear that the intention was to finalize what he described as the "ethnic cleansing of the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh" and highlighted several instances

⁵⁷⁴ See [S/PV.9422](#), France, Malta, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Switzerland, Russian Federation, Brazil, Ecuador, Ghana, Mozambique, Gabon, Japan and Albania.

⁵⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, France, Malta, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Brazil, Gabon, Albania, Germany, Türkiye and European Union.

⁵⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, Switzerland, Brazil and Mozambique.

⁵⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, France, Switzerland, Ecuador.

⁵⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, Malta, United Arab Emirates, Brazil, Mozambique, Albania and Germany.

in which the Council had failed to react adequately against the aggression. In that connection, he appealed to the Council to undertake the following urgent measures to i) condemn the resumption of hostilities; ii) demand full compliance with obligations under international humanitarian law; iii) immediately deploy an inter-agency mission by the United Nations to Nagorno-Karabakh; iv) ensure unimpeded humanitarian access; and v) ensure full cooperation with the ICRC. On the other hand, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan informed the Council about the challenges that Armenia posed to regional peace and security, highlighting its attempts to “exploit” the Council to “whitewash” its internationally wrongful acts. He noted that the measures taken by Azerbaijan were in full compliance with international law and aligned with its sovereign right to self-defense enshrined in the Charter.

Meetings: Letter dated 13 September 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2022/688](#)), 2023

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.9397 16 August			Armenia, Azerbaijan, Türkiye	Director of Operations and Advocacy, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Chargé d’Affaires ad interim of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council Members, all invitees ^a	
S/PV.9422 21 September			Armenia, Azerbaijan, Germany, Türkiye	Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and Americas, Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy	All Council Members, ^b all invitees ^c	

^a Armenia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

^b Albania (President of the Council) was represented by its Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs; France was represented by its Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs; Malta was represented by its Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade; United Arab Emirates was represented by its Minister of State; and the United Kingdom was represented by its Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs.

^c Armenia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Azerbaijan was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Germany was represented by its Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs; Türkiye was represented by its Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.