

Information to the attention of the members of the Security Council

- As it has been stated several times by official representatives, including by MFA, Azerbaijan has not put any restriction on the traffic along the Lachin road;
- The regime for the movement along the road continues to be as same as it before. The Russian peacekeeping forces are in charge of organization of the movement of citizens, goods and vehicles along the Lachin road;
- The protesters themselves declared no intention to block traffic along the road. On the contrary, in response to manipulations, their representative had made it clear that they are ready to facilitate the movement of civilian vehicles, especially emergency vehicles;
- As it was seen from videos disseminated through social media, convoy for the supply of the peacekeeping forces was able to move along the road. The protesters themselves, as well as representatives of the road police present on the ground provided all the necessary assistance. So, if the convoy of the peacekeepers can move, it means that any vehicles can also move on the road;
- Azerbaijan has not refused dialogue, on the contrary has taken consistent steps towards fostering dialogue with local Armenian residents. Apparently, it seems to be unnoticed that the construction of new Lachin road was done in close contacts with local residents. Azerbaijani experts had engaged in dialogue in terms of exploitation of Sarsang water reservoir;
- This time Azerbaijan also relied on the dialogue to address the concerns over the illegal exploitation of natural resources in the area of temporary deployment of the Russian peacekeeping contingent;
- Over past few months there had been series of formal and informal exchanges through the peacekeeping contingent. Specifically, on December 3 upon the request of relevant state structures of Azerbaijan consultations started with the peacekeeping contingent related to modalities of on-site visit and monitoring of mineral deposits that are being illegally exploited. The consultations were also attended by representatives of local Armenians;
- On December 10, following the agreement reached through the peacekeepers, a group of Azerbaijani experts in company of peacekeepers attempted to visit the mineral deposits of concern. Yet, the group was obstructed by pre-planned, orchestrated so-called "protests". It was clearly observed that almost the same persons were staging such protests at two different sites where the visit of Azerbaijani experts were envisaged;
- The agreements reached previously were not honored. As a consequence, the delegation failed to implement its legitimate functions, namely to monitor the situation in the mineral deposits and assess the ecological impact;
- In other words, Azerbaijan has in fact sought to address its concerns through negotiations, sincerely engaged in dialogue. As of now, Azerbaijan still remains committed to engage in dialogue and call for facilitation of expert's visit to the mineral deposits as it was previously agreed;

- It is not the Azerbaijani Government that refused dialogue, but our consistent efforts for dialogue are effectively sabotaged. Increased dialogue over past months between central Azerbaijani authorities and local ethnic Armenians, and their tangible results apparently do not serve to interests of certain forces;
- Ongoing illegal exploitation of natural resources of Azerbaijan is a source of legitimate concern for the entire Azerbaijani society. With the implantation of Ruben Vardanyan, who is familiar with his dirty business schemes and affiliation with companies that previously engaged in plundering of Azerbaijan's natural resources in then-occupied territories these concerns only further increased;
- Consequently, it caused deep resentment in the public of Azerbaijan. Illegal exploitation of natural resources and its harsh ecological impact are not something hypothetical for Azerbaijani society. We have seen countless such cases during the occupation of our territories. Impact is now crystal clear in areas liberated from occupation and reflected by reports of competent international organization;
- Of the 151 mineral deposits identified in the territories prior to the occupation, 52 sites were exploited for the first time in the period from 1993 – 2020. Furthermore, several of the pre-conflict mining operations were expanded and intensified;
- Mining and quarrying operations were conducted with inadequate environmental oversight and supervision, including a lack of effluent treatment and site rehabilitation. This has created environmental impacts such as i) deforestation and land degradation; ii) suspended sediment pollution (turbidity) in rivers; and iii) chemical pollution of water, soil, and biota;
- Another element of misinformation is about accusation on imposing a blockade on local Armenians, and so-called humanitarian catastrophe it has caused;
- First, as it was explained before, there is no blockade. Secondly, alleged humanitarian catastrophe is over-exaggeration with the purpose of misleading the international community. Those who claim to be representatives of the local Armenians, themselves through their public statements over past few days confirmed that there was no shortage of food, medicaments or any other supply;
- Nevertheless, the Government of Azerbaijan has taken seriously possible negative impact of the situation and on several occasions over past days we have declared our readiness to address any humanitarian concern of our citizens of Armenian origin on the ground;
- Along with that, protesters themselves declared their openness for dialogue and contact with local Armenian residents. Their representatives have even shared their personal contact details for this purpose;
- Gas disruption by Azerbaijan is another fake story. This has been officially refuted by AZERGAS. If gas supply has indeed been disrupted in the area it might have been related to technical reasons, bad weather conditions currently observed in certain mountainous regions of Azerbaijan;

- As of now, gas supply in the area is resumed, which is confirmed also by the Armenian side;
- We observe calls for Azerbaijan to comply with the Trilateral statement in view of recent situation. Firstly, the protests by a group of civilian activists have nothing to do with the implementation of Azerbaijan of its commitment under the Trilateral statement. Specifically, on the secure movement of citizens, goods and vehicles along the Lachin road, regulations remain intact, Azerbaijan has not put any restriction in this regard;
- Secondly, Azerbaijan has not only consistently implemented all its commitments, including those under the Trilateral Statement. But, we have consistently drawn the attention of international community to gross and blatant violations of this very document by Armenia, including in terms of the use of the Lachin road;
- The road has been exploited for military purposes, rotation of Armenia's armed formations that have not been withdrawn from the territory of Armenia in violation of the Trilateral Statement's 4th clause. Evidence in this respect, including by third independent sources, western journalists are all publicly available and has been presented widely by Azerbaijan to all those international partners;
- Azerbaijan provided countless evidence on the abuse of the Lachin road for transfer of landmines to the territory of Azerbaijan. Armenia took a commitment to cease hostilities against Azerbaijan, yet Azerbaijanis, most importantly civilians continue to suffer from mines freshly planted by Armenia after it has signed the Statement and took commitment to cease military hostilities;
- Most recently, 350 landmines of 2021-Armenia-production had been detected. The area where this minefield of newly planted landmines was detected has not been theatre of military operation during the 44-day War and has been within the area of deployment of Russian peacekeeping contingent until recently. The area was checked by military attaches of embassies in Baku;
- On December 14, 2022, 8 more Azerbaijanis fall victim of mine explosion in Kalbajar district, 1 killed, 2 were seriously injured. The area where the incident took place was far from the former line of contact and had been in the use of the Armenia until its handover under the Trilateral Statement;
- These cases, which unfortunately far from being isolated cases are indicative of Armenia's deliberate attempt to cause as much damage as possible, to prevent Azerbaijan's reconstruction efforts, and eventually to prevent Azerbaijani IDPs to return. Azerbaijan has provided extensive evidence in this regard to entire international community;
- In total, after the signing of the trilateral statement in November 2020, 276 persons have become mine victims. 46 persons, including 35 civilians, were killed;
- We again call on all third parties, foreign countries and international organizations to refrain from one-sided actions and statements, feeding separatism in the territory of Azerbaijan;

- Such statements do not help fostering dialogue between Azerbaijani authorities and local ethnic Armenians, who unlike those who have been illegal implanted there for malign political purposes, are eligible for such a dialogue and reintegration;
- Promotion and encouragement of such a dialogue is needed, not least, because of interests of those ordinary residents of Armenian origin. Their security, human rights, including their cultural, religious or linguistic rights are under the guarantee of the Government of Azerbaijan in accordance with our Constitution and relevant international obligations. Azerbaijan is the most interested party in such a dialogue for the soonest finalization of the reintegration process;
- We expect our international partners to support and encourage such a dialogue. Not feed false illusions that separatism can lead into an outcome desired by Armenia's revanchist forces and their foreign sponsors.