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**Human Rights Council**

**Fifty-second session**

27 February–31 March 2023

Agenda item 4

**Human rights situations that require the Council’s attention**

Note verbale dated 24 February 2023 from the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva hereby transmits a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia on the order of the International Court of Justice on the request for provisional measures made by Armenia regarding the disruption of the Lachin Corridor (see annex).

In this legally binding order, adopted by the Court on 22 February 2023, it observed that since 12 December 2022, the connection between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia via the Lachin Corridor has been disrupted. The Court notes that a number of consequences have resulted from this situation and that the impact on those affected persists to this date. The information available to the Court indicates that the disruption on the Lachin Corridor has impeded the transfer of persons of Armenian national or ethnic origin hospitalized in Nagorno-Karabakh to medical facilities in Armenia for urgent medical care. The evidence also indicates that there have been hindrances to the importation into Nagorno-Karabakh of essential goods, causing shortages of food, medicine and other life-saving medical supplies.

Subsequently, the Court indicated the following provisional measure:

The Republic of Azerbaijan shall, pending the final decision in the case and in accordance with its obligations under [the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination], take all measures at its disposal to ensure unimpeded movement of persons, vehicles and cargo along the Lachin Corridor in both directions.

In another ruling, adopted on the same day, the Court unanimously rejected the request for the indication of provisional measures submitted by the Republic of Azerbaijan in relation to the latter’s allegations against Armenia on landmines.

The Court found that its previous order adopted on 7 December 2021 on a similar request by Azerbaijan made against Armenia applied also to the present circumstances. Accordingly, the Court quotes its previous order, which was also adopted unanimously: “Azerbaijan has not placed before the Court evidence indicating that Armenia’s alleged conduct with respect to landmines has ‘the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing’, of rights of persons of Azerbaijani national or ethnic origin.” Therefore, the Court has twice unanimously rejected the false accusations of Azerbaijan about the alleged use of landmines by Armenia.

The Permanent Mission of Armenia kindly requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to circulate the present note verbale and the annex thereto[[1]](#footnote-2)\* as a document of the Human Rights Council, under agenda item 4.

Annex to the note verbale dated 24 February 2023 from the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia dated 22 February 2023on Order of the International Court of Justice on the request for provisional measures made by Armenia regarding the disruption of the Lachin corridor

We welcome the decisions of the International Court of Justice of February 22 on the requests for provisional measures made by Armenia and Azerbaijan under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

The Court has issued a legally binding order against Azerbaijan in the proceedings brought by Armenia against it, while categorically rejecting Azerbaijan’s requests made in the parallel proceedings Azerbaijan brought against Armenia. In the mentioned order, the Court has found that there is an imminent risk of irreparable harm to Armenians’ rights under the CERD, and ordered Azerbaijan to take all necessary measures to ensure unimpeded movement of persons, vehicles and cargo along the Lachin Corridor in both directions.

In stark contrast, the Court by a unanimous vote completely rejected Azerbaijan’s request for provisional measures concerning fake allegations of landmine laying by Armenia in Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding territories.

Thus, in accordance with the Court’s orders, Azerbaijan's blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh and other actions must now come to an immediate end. Armenia will closely monitor the situation and inform the Court of any violations as Armenia’s case against Azerbaijan proceeds.

We call on international partners to take efficient steps to ensure the immediate implementation of the Court's decision by Azerbaijan.

1. \* Reproduced as received, in the language of submission only. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)