

16. 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 Security Council held two meetings under this item. Both took the form of a briefing.⁵⁷⁹ More information on the meeting, including on participants and speakers is provided in the table below. In addition, in 2022, Council members held informal consultations of the whole to discuss this item.⁵⁸⁰

During the year 2022, the Council heard two briefings from the Assistant Secretary General for Europe, Central Asia, and the Americas and the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations. The representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan also participated in both meetings and delivered statements.

During his briefing, on 15 September, the Assistant Secretary-General referred to the reports of the authorities in Armenia and Azerbaijan about heavy fighting on their international border.⁵⁸¹ He added that according to those reports, heavy artillery, drones and large-calibre weapons were used through 13 and 14 September and that a cease-fire was agreed starting on 14 September, at 8 p.m. local time. He informed that both countries had written to the Secretary General and the Council, citing violations of the ceasefire agreement brokered by the Russian Federation in 2020 and of their territorial integrity.⁵⁸² He stressed that ongoing mediation efforts in the region, particularly those of the Russian Federation and the European Union, could provide groundwork for enabling parties to engage in dialogue aimed at reaching a peaceful solution. He noted that the escalation underscored the urgent need for the parties to advance the process of delimitation and demarcation within the framework of their mutual recognition of their respective territorial integrity and sovereignty and was a reminder of the potential that the tensions could have in destabilizing the region. In the immediate term, he said that the parties had to abide by their obligations to fully implement the trilateral statement on the ceasefire of 9 November 2020 and urged them to return to the negotiating table and take steps towards the

⁵⁷⁹ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II.

⁵⁸⁰ See [A/77/2](#), part II, chap. 41.

⁵⁸¹ See [S/PV.9132](#).

⁵⁸² See [S/2020/996](#), and [S/2022/688](#).

signing of a lasting peace treaty. He also said that it was important for the Security Council to send a similar united message in order to enable the parties to focus on a diplomatic solution.

Following the briefing, discussions focused on the opportunities for negotiation between the parties.⁵⁸³ Council members welcomed the ceasefire agreement on 14 September and called for a lasting peace settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Council members expressed concern regarding the clashes at the border and strongly condemned the attacks on civilians and the destruction of critical infrastructure in the region. They also welcomed international efforts in helping advance negotiations between the two countries. Most Council members called in particular for the preservation of and compliance with the trilateral statements brokered by the Russian Federation in 2020. Some Council members additionally expressed support for the mediation efforts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), especially the co-Chairs of the Minsk Group, as well as those of the European Union.⁵⁸⁴ Several countries additionally highlighted and supported the progress made during the high-level meetings held on 31 August, in Brussels, mediated by the President of the European Council.⁵⁸⁵

The representative of the Russian Federation described his country's involvement with both parties to reduce tensions and to achieve a sustainable ceasefire and the return of Azerbaijani and Armenian soldiers to their previous positions. He also explained that the Collective Security Council of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), on 13 September, had met resulting in an agreement by the CSTO secretariat and the joint staff to send a mission to the Republic of Armenia in order to study the situation in various areas on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan and make appropriate recommendations and proposals to be reviewed by the CSTO Heads of State. While noting the difficult path to reconciliation between the two countries, the representative of the Russian Federation noted that his country was making every effort to normalize their relations based on the three trilateral statements made by the leaders of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia. He underlined that the first of the agreements ended the hostilities and defined the parameters for the deployment of a Russian peacekeeping contingent along the Lachin corridor and the line of contact in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict

⁵⁸³ For further detail on the discussion, see part VI, sect. IV.

⁵⁸⁴ See [S/PV.9132](#), Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Ghana, Albania, Norway and France.

⁵⁸⁵ Ireland, Albania and United Kingdom.

area, the second one concerned the unblocking of all economic and transportation links in the region, and the third one was focused on establishing mechanisms for border demarcation and delimitation.

The representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan spoke last after Council members. With regard to the heavy fighting at the international border, the representative of Armenia stated that on 13 September, Azerbaijan initiated an attack on the eastern and south-eastern regions of Armenia. He highlighted the destruction of civilian settlements and infrastructure also emphasizing that civilian homes were impacted by the violence and noted that heavy fire reached densely populated towns. He called on the Council to uphold its responsibility in maintaining international peace and security and to condemn the attack against the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia, as well as demand the withdrawal of Azerbaijan's military forces. He also urged the Council to demand that Azerbaijan refrain from future acts of aggression and comply with international commitments and to engage in peaceful negotiations especially relating to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and for the release and repatriation of Armenian prisoners of war.

By contrast, the representative of Azerbaijan said that from 12 to 13 September, Armenia's armed forces committed a large-scale attack in the direction of the Azerbaijani districts of the state border resulting in the loss of servicemen, missing civilians and military infrastructure impacted. He maintained that Armenia continued attacks in border areas after the ceasefire agreement became effective on the morning of 13 September and stated that the military escalation was provoked by Armenia with the goal of destabilizing the normalization process. He explained that the countermeasures taken in response to Armenia's actions were limited and targeted at legitimate military objects. The representative of Azerbaijan called for the international community to persuade Armenia to reciprocate Azerbaijan's offer, cease its political and military provocations, abandon its aggressive rhetoric and actions and engage in good faith in direct negotiations to find peaceful diplomatic solutions to all issues pertaining to inter-State relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

On 20 December, the Council held a meeting further to the letters from Armenia and Azerbaijan.⁵⁸⁶ At the meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary General

⁵⁸⁶ See [S/2022/979](#) and [S/2022/988](#).

for Europe, Central Asia, and the Americas who reported that regrettably, despite the promising diplomatic engagements over the previous months, the tensions both on the Armenia-Azerbaijan border and around areas under the control of the Russian peacekeeping forces had not abated.⁵⁸⁷ He explained that, in the latest sign of escalating tensions, protests had emerged near a Russian peacekeeping post on the Lachin road, a vital artery for the people living in the area. He said that it had been reported that the protests were against what was claimed to be the illegal exploitation of mineral resources and its environmental impact on the surrounding area. In the letters submitted by Armenia and Azerbaijan to the Secretary General and the Security Council, both alleged violations of the trilateral statement of 9 November 2020. He noted that the potential human toll of a resumption of the conflict could be considerable and cautioned that any renewed conflict would not only impact the people of Armenia and Azerbaijan but also likely those in the wider South Caucasus region and beyond. He emphasized that the parties must abide by their obligation to fully implement the trilateral statement on the ceasefire of 9 November 2020 and the subsequent agreed statements and commitments, as well as to redouble their diplomatic efforts to achieve a negotiated, lasting and peaceful settlement.

Following the briefing, the discussions focused on the opportunities for mediation as a pacific means to resolve the ongoing conflict.⁵⁸⁸ Council members expressed their concern regarding the interference of the Lachin Corridor and heightened tensions between the neighboring countries and called for the immediate reopening of the Lachin corridor to allow for the natural flow of traffic and the delivery of goods, supplies, and services. Most Council members additionally encouraged Armenia and Azerbaijan to resolve all disputes through diplomacy and dialogue and build upon the progress made.⁵⁸⁹ Most Council Members also encouraged Armenia and Azerbaijan to fully abide by and implement the trilateral statement of 9 November 2020.⁵⁹⁰ Some of them stressed further the importance of adhering to all previously reached agreements including the trilateral statements of 11 January 2021, 26 November 2021 and 31 October 2022,

⁵⁸⁷ See [S/PV.9288](#).

⁵⁸⁸ For further detail on the discussion, see part VI, sect. IV.

⁵⁸⁹ See [S/PV.9228](#), France, Albania, China, United States, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, Brazil, Norway, Ghana, Ireland, Gabon and India.

⁵⁹⁰ France, United Arab Emirates, Russian Federation, Mexico, Norway, Ghana and Ireland.

as they laid the groundwork for achieving peace and stability in the region.⁵⁹¹ Some Council members acknowledged and supported ongoing mediation efforts in the region whether that be the efforts of the Russian Federation, the European Union or other Member States.⁵⁹² Many Council members further encouraged the international community's role in helping facilitate dialogue and normalizing relations between the two countries.⁵⁹³ In this regard, several Council members supported the delineation and delimitation of the border between the two countries.⁵⁹⁴

The representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan spoke last after Council members. While the representative of Armenia stated that the humanitarian crisis was created by Azerbaijan as a result of its imposition of an illegal blockade on the population of Nagorno-Karabakh in direct breach of its existing commitments, the representative of Azerbaijan accused Armenia of engaging in illegal military activities including the planting of mines in violation of the trilateral statement of 9 November 2020. Despite their disagreements, Azerbaijan underscored the commitment to achieve regional peace and stability and the establishment of good, neighborly relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The representative of Armenia called for the deployment of a fact-finding mission to Nagorno-Karabakh and the Lachin corridor to assess the humanitarian situation on the ground as well as ensure humanitarian access for United Nations agencies to Nagorno-Karabakh.

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](#))

| <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> |
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| S/PV.9132 23 September 2022 | | | Armenia, Azerbaijan | Assistant Secretary General for Europe, Central Asia, and Americas, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations. | All Council Members, all invitees | |

⁵⁹¹ Albania, United Arab Emirates, Russian Federation, Kenya and India.

⁵⁹² France, United Arab Emirates, United States, Russian Federation, Brazil, Norway, Ghana and India.

⁵⁹³ United Arab Emirates, China, United States, Ghana, Norway, Ghana and Gabon.

⁵⁹⁴ France, Russian Federation, Ghana and Gabon.

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| S/PV.9228 20 December 2022 | Armenia. Azerbaijan | Assistant Secretary General for Europe, Central Asia, and Americas, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations. | All Council Members, all invitees |
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