

**Report of the First Meeting
of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
Contact Group on the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against
the Republic of Azerbaijan**

New York, September 19, 2016

The OIC Contact Group on the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan held its first meeting on Monday 19 September 2016 at the Ministerial level on the sidelines of the Annual Coordination Meeting in New York. The meeting was attended by the delegations of the Republic of Djibouti, Islamic Republic of Gambia, Malaysia, Kingdom of Morocco, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The meeting was opened by H. E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, the OIC Secretary General, who referred to the decision of the 13th Islamic Conference Summit held on 14-15 April 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey, to establish the Contact Group on the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan within the OIC at the level of Foreign Ministers, and welcomed the participants of the meeting. He recalled the principled position of the OIC on condemnation of the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan, and expressed the hope that solidarity and support of the OIC Member States to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic Azerbaijan would be translated into practical and effective measures in order to bring the aggressor in compliance with the norms and principles of international law and the OIC decisions.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H. E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov cordially thanked the participants for joining the Contact Group in the spirit of Islamic solidarity, and expressed confidence that the Contact Group will be the driving force within the OIC in supporting the just cause of Azerbaijan. He also briefed the Group on the latest developments with regard to the peaceful settlement of the conflict. Recalling the four resolutions of the UN Security Council, namely 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993), 884 (1993), which reaffirmed respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and inviolability of its internationally recognized borders and demanded the immediate, full and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from all the occupied territories, Foreign Minister Mammadyarov stressed that these resolutions are yet to be implemented, and the mediation efforts carried out within the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for the past twenty years and by the Minsk Group have still not yielded results.

Other distinguished members of the Contact Group highly commended the decision of the 13th session of the Islamic Summit Conference to establish the OIC Contact Group on the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan. They also reiterated their unwavering support to the resolution of the conflict between Armenia and

Azerbaijan within the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan and called for immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia from the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan in accordance with the afore mentioned resolutions of the UN Security Council.

The meeting condemned in the strongest terms the large-scale attacks carried out by the armed forces of Armenia against the civilian population of Azerbaijan in early April 2016, which were accompanied with numerous acts of violation of international humanitarian law, and as a result of which civilian population have been killed and wounded, mosques have been attacked, praying people died and social and economic infrastructure have been destroyed. The meeting supported Azerbaijan's efforts in defeating those attacks and defending its peaceful population.

The meeting expressed grave concern at the destruction of the mosques, sacred Islamic sites and cultural heritage, as well as forced demographic changes, interference with property rights, illegal economic activities in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and urged the OIC Member States to prevent their legal and natural persons from getting involved in these illegal activities.

The meeting acknowledged that the establishment of the OIC Contact Group on the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan and its effective functioning is of great importance, given the urgent need for more concerted efforts of the Islamic Ummah to force Armenia to comply with its international obligations. They also reiterated the persistent calls of the OIC to its Member States and the international community to use effective political and economic measures in order to put an end to the Armenian aggression and occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan. The Meeting further called on the Member States to collectively act to put the conflict at the top of the international agenda in order to find a negotiated settlement.

The members of the Contact Group expressed their hope that the deliberations within the Contact Group would contribute to the implementation of the OIC documents on condemning the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan and will help to harmonize the individual and joint efforts of the OIC Member States to this end. The meeting finally agreed to work out a road-map to guide the activities of the Contact Group.

This report is hereby submitted to the Annual Coordination Meeting for its consideration.