



AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASININ EKOLOGİYA VƏ TƏBİİ SƏRVƏTLƏR NAZİRLİYİ

Az1073 Bakı şəhəri, K. Kazımxadə küç. 100A
E-poçt: info@eco.gov.az

Tel: +99412 538-85-08
Faks: +99412 492-59-07

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Dear Madam Chair,

Dear meeting participants,

First of all, I would like to greet you on behalf of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and thank for the opportunity to make an intervention.

As you know, Azerbaijan being a downstream country is a party to the UNECE Water Convention and successfully implements its provisions and ensures regular reporting. We appreciate Water Convention's active role in facilitating transboundary and regional cooperation.

However, non-accession of upstream countries to the Convention makes it impossible to resolve transboundary water issues within the framework of international norms.

According to the requirements of the Convention, any activities related to transboundary water bodies, including the discharge of wastewater, should not pose a problem for the quantity and quality of water for other countries in the basin.

The pollution of the Araz River, the second largest river in the region, as a result of the direct untreated discharge of wastewater from Armenia's mining enterprises and major cities is a matter of serious concern.

Non-humanistic attitude towards nature in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan by Armenia poses a serious threat to the regions environment. In the occupied region, the forest strips are destructed and burned, rivers are polluted, flora and fauna is destroyed, and mineral resources are plundered.

Urgent measures should be taken based on the principles of international law regarding the ecological terrorism occurred in territories of Azerbaijan occupied by Armenia.

On September 27, 2020, Armenia committed military provocation against Azerbaijan. Armenia used heavy artillery to fire on the positions of Azerbaijan's Armed Forces and residential areas located along the line of contact. Azerbaijani civilians and servicemen were killed due to the attack.

This was not the first time the Armenian side had perpetrated a military provocation.

The Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict should be resolved based on relevant UN Security Council resolutions calling for an immediate, unconditional and complete withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories.

Thank you for your attention.