

**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
at the Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism 2022**

**Breakout session 2 B: Terrorist attacks based on xenophobia,
racism, and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of
religion or belief (XRIRB)**

8 September 2022

Thank you for the floor distinguished Mr. Chairman, Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen!

It's a great pleasure for me to greet the participants of the Congress on

peace in our region. Let me focus the attention to these types of terrorism and share views on their threats with the distinguished delegates.

A clear example of environmental terrorism for us is setting fire to forests, laying mines and continuing other subversive activities in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, directed against the territorial integrity and sovereignty of our country. All these actions of the Armenian separatists are supported by the nationalist and revanchist circles of Armenia. Those who set fire to forests both in Karabakh and in other regions of the world show by their actions that they are absolutely indifferent to the consequences of these acts of vandalism, leading to the destruction of valuable forest resources, rare flora and fauna, creating the preconditions for the destruction of all mankind. The forests set on fire do not only belong to the countries in which they are located, they are indeed belong to their entire humanity. Thus, we believe that, regardless of the place and motives, the burning of forests is a direct attack on humanity; it's a manifestation of acts of environmental terrorism.

[I would like our fellow colleagues to know that when the Azerbaijanis were forced to leave their native towns and villages 30 years ago, they did not damage a single house, not a single tree, did not mine any towns and villages as they knew well it belonged to them. It is for this reason that the burning of forests and houses causes justified indignation among our citizens, who demand that those responsible be punished to the fullest extent of existing laws. In addition, there are well-grounded claims against Armenia for burial of the radioactive wastes of Metsamor nuclear plant on our lands during the occupation and poisoning our rivers with toxic materials.]

Despite the high degree of public danger of environmental terrorism,

included, inter alia, to the priority areas of activity of international organizations that take a leading role in the fight against terrorism. Due to this fact, the task of coordinating international efforts in the fight against environmental terrorism within the framework of such global institutions as the UN becomes critically important.

Another dangerous manifestation of terrorist activity against our country is

cooperation in the field of combating terrorism and protecting the rights of victims of terrorist activities.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to address this prestigious