Azerbaijan

Positions for General Assembly First Committee: Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)

I. The Weaponization of Artificial Intelligence

The diversification of our economy has been a major goal for Azerbaijan. Our economy has been primarily focused on the energy sector. This includes the production of petroleum, petroleum products, and natural gas. The energy sector can be very unpredictable and the price of oil can fluctuate. This makes our country vulnerable to a recession and limits long-term growth of our economy. Diversifying our economy into non-energy sectors like agriculture, logistics, information technology, and tourism will help lessen this problem.

In 2016, President Ilham Aliyev approved a strategic roadmap for economic reforms that identified key non-energy segments of the economy for development. We want to specifically develop our information technology systems. Progress in the areas of high speed Internet, training of skilled human resources, and support to the innovation ecosystem, is necessary for the development of IT industries in Azerbaijan. A strong IT industry will allow Azerbaijan to increase its research and development of artificial intelligence.

The Armenian conflict is an issue that could be addressed with the assistance of AI technology. This conflict was sparked by overt territorial claims to Azerbaijan historical lands, acts of terror committed by the Armenian government, and military aggression against Azerbaijan. In 2020, fighting in the Nagorno-Karabakh region continued and we were able to regain significant portions of Nagorno-Karabakh. We pushed back against Armenian forces, and they withdrew their forces from strategic important areas. Azerbaijan had the capability to drive out Armenian forces, because of our fleet of low-cost, high tech unmanned drones. Azerbaijani casualties were decreased and our equipment outmatched the older Soviet-era Armenian equipment. We would like to expand on this technology and implement AI systems to make them more precise and stronger. AI systems will be able to control our developing information technology systems.

We are in favor of implementing the Lethal Autonomous Aerial Weapons System. This system will improve our drone fleet and our military capability. This will allow us to defend our historical territory and citizens from Armenian attacks. We do understand the possible problems that could arise from implementing AI systems and are open to discussing possible solutions to make these systems safer. We believe human input should be needed to override AI systems in the case of malfunction. Humanity and AI systems must work together to have a positive outcome.

II. Combating the Global Illicit Arms Trade

When combating the Global Illicit Arms Trade in Azerbaijan all measures at the national, regional and international levels make sure any SALW-related obligations are being fulfilled. The United Nations says that in order to uphold these commitments they have established interagency cooperation and they are sure to share information with the proper authorities. The country of Azerbaijan wants to increase transparency and have responsible behavior for the trading of SAL.

Azerbaijan has made great efforts to ensure disarmament of groups and implement arms control measures. However this has become more difficult with the continued aggression from Armenia towards Azerbaijan. We feel the ongoing conflict with Armenia is causing more issues with the illicit arms trade because Armenia has been misleading the international community. Because Armenia has been using illegal weapons they have acquired to attack our country, we are passionate about the stop of this weapons trafficking going on.

Arms trafficking in our country is extremely limited. We have been investigating where both countries are getting their weapons, with the suspicion that the legal arms trade network actually runs on the illegal market. Azerbaijan has an anti-organized crime unit that deals with different types of organized crime going on in the country. The crime units deal with the illicit arms trade by gathering information while also trying to make the border between Azerbaijan and Armenia more secure. We are constantly trying to improve ways of acquiring knowledge and improving our training for tackling organized crime.

Due to the ongoing conflict in the Nagorno-Karabakh area our country has had some border issues and that has led to risks related to international arms transfers. We have been trying to secure our border to stop the flow of weapons being smuggled on either side but this is proving to be difficult due to the lack of a cease fire. In the past there have been embargos put on all weapons sales to both our country and Armenia to stop the violence. Germany in particular doesn't want to sell our country's weapons any more.

Since our country doesn't produce many weapons we rely heavily on external supplies who are able to sell to us. This has led to room for black market weapons to be accessible, which is not what our country wants. We want to keep strict gun rules and regulations during this time of great conflict and stop the selling and buying of illegal arms.