­­ARMENIA

*Check against delivery*

19 January 2023

**Fifth intersessional meeting of the Human Rights Council on Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda. Overcoming multiple crises: realising the SDGs through a human rights enhancing economy**

**Delivered by H.E. Mr. Andranik Hovhannisyan, Permanent representative**

Mr. Chair,

Armenia would like to extend its gratitude for the opening remarks, the key-note speech and the insightful thoughts of the panelists. We also welcome the focus of discussions on the human rights centered implementation of the 2030 Agenda, while overcoming the impact of the multiple crises the world is currently facing. The HRC resolution 43/19 that mandated this meeting stipulated that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda must be consistent with a state’s obligations under international human rights law.

This obligation has been continuously breached by Azerbaijan in its efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by force. The most recent case is the blockage of the Lachin Corridor, the only lifeline that connects Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia. This blockage continues for 40 days, grossly violating the human rights and impairing sustainable development of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh. The UN SG, numerous states and international organizations, including the Freedom House, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International have urged for the freedom of movement on the Corridor and respect of human rights. The situation is dire. The CNN reported that potatoes are nowadays a luxury in Nagorno-Karabakh. The gas and electricity are frequently disrupted by Azerbaijan dooming 120.000 inhabitants of Nagorno-Karabakh to freeze in severe winter conditions.

Mr. Chair,

We have all committed that the implementation of the SDGs should be grounded on the international human rights treaties, leaving no one behind and protecting the fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind and any status. It is our conviction that the implementation of these collective pledges should be collectively ensured and guaranteed.

I thank you.