



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
21 October 2019

Original: English

---

## Seventy-fourth session

Agenda item 8

### General debate

#### **Letter dated 9 October 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

I am writing to you concerning the statement made by the Prime Minister of Armenia, Mr. Nikol Pashinyan, during the general debate of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly.

I would like to start by emphasizing that, under international law, genocide is a strictly defined crime, the authoritative determination of which can solely be made by a competent court. As regards the events of 1915, there does not exist any such judgment. On the contrary, recent regional and national court judgments point to the non-justiciable and historic nature of the events concerned and confirm that these events are indeed the subject of legitimate debate.

Concerning the absurd claim that Turkey poses a threat to Armenia's national security, it is only ironic that such an assertion comes from the representative of a country that overtly glorifies the perpetrators of the brutal terrorist attacks committed against Turkish citizens and diplomats in the 1970s and 1980s and that has continued to occupy one fifth of Azerbaijan's territory for more than a quarter of a century.

As we have stated on numerous occasions, Turkey remains ready to work towards normalizing bilateral relations, establishing a just and shared understanding of the past and restoring peace and security in the region. However, this could only be possible if Armenia were to reciprocate the same constructive approach.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(Signed) Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu  
Permanent Representative

