



**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
1149<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council,  
08 June 2017**

*in response to presentation of the 2018  
Programme Outline by the Secretary General, Amb. Lamberto Zannier*

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank the OSCE Secretary General for presenting the 2018 Programme Outline.

Our Delegation will later provide detailed comments on the Programme Outline. At this stage we would like to offer initial remarks on some of the Funds.

We wish to underline that in line with the PC decision on adoption of 2017 Unified Budget and previous decisions, fund managers shall ensure full compliance of their programme activities, in accordance with the body of the OSCE principles, commitments and decisions as well as their respective mandates. We reiterate our principled position on the need to ensure balance across all three dimensions of security, which should be reflected accordingly in the programmatic activity of OSCE executive structures.

OSCE should streamline its efforts in dealing with threats and challenges to security and stability in its region within the framework of its comprehensive security concept. In line with the core objective and clear mandate of OSCE to resolve existing conflicts, OSCE and its executive structures should focus not merely on defusing the conflicts and preventing their escalation, but to use existing formats and tools effectively to facilitate substantive result-oriented negotiations that would bring early solution to the problems on the basis of OSCE principles and commitments. In this regard, we took note of that the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) “will support efforts to reduce the risk of conflicts and to facilitate their resolution, through policy and programmatic advice, as well as substantive support to the formats dealing with crises and conflicts in the OSCE area.”

On the second dimension-related matters, we welcome the intention of the Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) to promote connectivity in transport and trade in line and within the scope agreed upon in Hamburg MC Decision 04/16 on Good governance and promoting connectivity. Issues such as energy efficiency, renewable and sustainable energy should also be high on OSCE agenda in the second dimension. Good governance should be promoted in a comprehensive way across all three dimensions.

We welcome the inclusion of issue of strengthening of professional journalism standards and media self-regulation in the programme outline of the Representative on Freedom of the

Media (RFoM). We expect that the activities of the Office of the Representative will be strictly in line with its Mandate and will include consensus programmes.

We welcome continuous focus of ODIHR on tolerance and non-discrimination and assistance to participating States to prevent and respond to bias-motivated crimes and discrimination. We consider positively intention of ODIHR to continue to further develop its methodology on election observation and to hold targeted and effective follow-up activities and dialogue with OSCE participating States with a view to maximizing the effect and benefits of election observation.

Nevertheless, we regret to observe yet again lack of attention to the issue of refugees and IDPs in OSCE and in ODIHR activities in particular. In light of existing wide-range commitments related to IDPs and refugees, ODIHR and other relevant structures should allocate adequate resources to activities aimed at finding solution to problems of this vulnerable group.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.