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## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

### **2017 Annual Security Review Conference “Countering terrorism - transnational threats in the OSCE area”**

Thank you, Madame Moderator,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan warmly welcomes distinguished speakers and thanks them for their comprehensive presentations.

With its changing nature and character, extremism, radicalization, terrorism and misuse of ICT continue to pose a serious threat to international peace and security and to the political independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and social and economic development of all States.

Azerbaijan strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and expresses its strong determination to continue to contribute to international efforts for eradicating this problem. We consider that all terrorist acts, regardless of their motivation constitute serious crimes and must be condemned and prosecuted.

The international community, including through United Nations efforts, has achieved tangible results in countering terrorism. Nevertheless, a number of critical areas continue to require our constant attention. Increasing convergence of discourses of terrorism, radicalization and extremism and inseparable link between terrorism and aggressive separatism and organized crime proves that exclusive use of traditional military and law enforcement responses to mitigate the threat of terrorism are neither sufficient nor effective. Possible drivers of terrorist radicalization are varied and complex and any measures to counter and prevent this problem require a sophisticated and comprehensive approach. The root causes of terrorism and conditions that are conducive to it must be identified and addressed.

Radical ideologies that preach violent extremism, such as ethnic and racial superiority inevitably lead to aggressive wars, ethnic cleansing, which in its turn nurture further spread of radicalization and violence. Conflict-affected territories, especially those under foreign military occupation, often provide fertile ground for terrorists. The accumulation of armaments and ammunition in those territories beyond international control and the risk of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and related materials to terrorists pose a serious threat to regional and international peace and security. To break the vicious cycle of violent extremism, terrorism and armed conflicts, we stress the need to intensify conflict resolution efforts on the basis of the generally accepted norms and principles of international law, particularly those relating to respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of States.

Financing of terrorism should remain at the center of the counter-terrorism efforts. It is important to counter and suppress the financing of terrorism, as it facilitates the recruitment efforts and strengthens the operational capacities to organize and carry out terrorist acts.

We believe that war on terrorism cannot and must not be used to target any religion or culture. For this end, we must continue to foster discussions using the potentials of the OSCE, including its cross-dimensional approach and attach primary importance to the promotion of education and inclusive societies as well as enhance intercultural dialogue, religious tolerance and understanding among peoples. All States should be united in supporting various initiatives on intercultural and interreligious dialogue, such as the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the culture of peace initiative. Strengthening cooperation within those initiatives will serve to prevent misconceptions, defamatory manifestations and deliberate labeling of religions and contribute to the efficiency of counterterrorism efforts.

Azerbaijan supports the activities of the OSCE in the field of combating terrorism and continues to be a strong proponent of keeping the issue of countering terrorism and violent extremism high on the agenda of our Organization. We welcome the adoption at the Ministerial Council in Hamburg the Declaration on Strengthening OSCE Efforts to Prevent and Counter Terrorism.

We agree that existing and potential threats in the sphere of cyber-security are among the new challenges of the twenty-first century. At conceptual level, we would like to note that norms and principles of international law are unambiguously applicable in the use of ICT. In this regard, we welcome the findings of the UN Group of Governmental Experts on use of ICT. We also welcome the activity of the OSCE to reduce the risks of conflicts stemming from the use of information and communication technologies and express our readiness to continue our engagement in the work of the Informal Working Group established in accordance with the PC Decision 1039. The OSCE activities on addressing the threats emanating from the use of ICT should be based on norms and principles of international law.

Thank you Madame Moderator.