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**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
1152nd Meeting of the Permanent Council,
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Indiscriminate killing of the Azerbaijani civilians by Armenia

Mr. Chairperson,

On 4 July 2017, as a result of targeted and deliberate attack on civilians and civilian objects of the Alkhanli village of Fizuli district of Azerbaijan by armed forces of Armenia with 82 and 120 mm mortars and heavy grenade launchers Guliyeva Sahiba (born in 1967) and her 2 years old granddaughter Guliyeva Zahra were killed. Another civilian Guliyeva Sarvinaz (born in 1965) was wounded. Civilian objects sustained damages.

This is not an isolated and sporadic incident. Azerbaijan has repeatedly brought to the attention of international community that over the past years the ceasefire violations have become more frequent and violent, causing deaths and injuries among Azerbaijani civilians. Escalation very often coincides with intensification of peace efforts. This was the case in 2014, 2015. This is the case now. It is noticeable that this provocation by Armenia took place against the background of the recent trip of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group to the region and the calls by the Co-chairing countries, UN, EU to engage in substantive negotiations in good faith and with political will – something that Azerbaijan has been calling for years.

Armenia by its actions showed an apparent disrespect to the understandings reached at the high-level meetings in Vienna and St. Petersburg in 2016 to maintain the ceasefire with the obvious purpose to compel Azerbaijan to react and in this way to derail the peace process.

Absence of a strong condemnation of Armenia's deliberate targeting and killing of Azerbaijani civilian population appeases the aggressor, encourages its leadership to continue violating fundamental human rights of Azerbaijanis and international humanitarian law. We must underline that, today's Armenians leadership throughout all years of the conflict committed crimes against humanity, including well documented Khojaly genocide of 1992, when 613 persons were killed, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly people. 1,275 inhabitants were taken hostage, while the fate of 150 persons remains unknown to this day. In the course of the tragedy 487 inhabitants of Khojaly were severely maimed, including 76 underage children.

Not surprisingly for us, we see no reaction to such provocative actions of Armenia by the European and OSCE institutions, which, in absence of a need and mandate, are quick to make

pronouncements about alleged violations of human rights, but keep silence when Azerbaijani civilians are indiscriminately murdered.

We demand consideration of this issue in the OSCE Minsk Group without delay to evaluate and appraise this provocative action by Armenia.

In absence of proper immediate reaction to the appeal of the Azerbaijani side to the OSCE Chairmanship, Co-chairmen and members of the OSCE Minsk Group as well as participating States, the Delegation of Azerbaijan underlines that the full responsibility for the developments will lie on the leadership of Armenia.

We call on those, who see no military solution of the conflict, to undertake urgent measures in order to rectify the situation and avoid derailing of efforts for political resolution of the conflict.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.