



**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
1155<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council,  
21 July 2017**

*in response to the statements by the Delegations  
of France on behalf of Co-chairing countries of the  
OSCE Minsk Group, Turkey, Ukraine, Georgia,  
Moldova, EU and Armenia*

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of Azerbaijan thanks Delegations of Turkey, Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova, the Delegation of France speaking on behalf of the Co-Chairing countries of the Minsk Group as well the Delegation of the European Union for their statements.

We express our gratitude to these delegations for demonstrating almost unanimous solidarity in the OSCE in rejecting the so-called “elections” in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Under the conditions of unlawful use of force and occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan, condemned by the UN Security Council resolutions, conduct of so-called “elections” or arranging any other voting process is null and void, and cannot produce any legal effect whatsoever, since they are held in grave violation of the relevant provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the norms and principles of international law and in absence of indigenous Azerbaijani population of the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Once again the OSCE community has united with Azerbaijan in refusing to reconcile with acquisition of territory by force as well as not recognizing the legal and constitutional framework, within which the so-called “elections” were held.

As for the reference of France on behalf of the co-chairing countries to the role of “people” of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan in the context of settlement of the conflict, I would like to request, through you, Mr. Chairman, the Delegations of France and the Russian Federation to confirm whether by referring to the role of “people” of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, the Co-Chairing countries imply the role of both Armenian community of this region and the expelled Azerbaijani community, whose return to their homes and properties in the Nagorno-Karabakh region is an essential prerequisite for the conflict resolution. We are thankful for the US Department of State public remarks, which yesterday identified the communities as “the population in Nagorno-Karabakh”. In this regard we strongly encourage the French and Russian Delegations, in their capacities of Co-chairing countries of the OSCE Minsk Group, to issue similar public statements rejecting holding of the so-called “elections” in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Also we suggest that these two Delegations avoid using such disputable terminology as “people of Nagorno-Karabakh” as this terminology gives broad room for controversial interpretation to the Armenian side.

We expect taking an impartial and just approach by the French and Russian Delegations to the OSCE, while exercising their functions of mediators.

I would like to reiterate that the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the entire population of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, both the Armenian and Azerbaijani communities, shall be equally protected. Thus being said, any kind of electoral activities in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan may be recognized as fair once the expelled Azerbaijani population takes full, direct and equal part in their conduct in lawful, peaceful and democratic environment. Holding of such elections will be possible only after withdrawal of the Armenian occupying forces, normalization of life in the region, creation of necessary conditions for restoration of dialogue and cooperation between the Armenian and Azerbaijani communities of Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.