



Hügelgasse 2, A-1130, Wien | Tel.: + 43 (1) 403 13 22 | Fax: + 43 (1) 403 13 23 | E-mail: vienna@mission.mfa.gov.az

**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
1157th Meeting of the Permanent Council,
28 September 2017**

in response to the SG on implementation of OSCE Gender Action Plan

Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to thank Secretary General for presenting an Annual Evaluation Report on the implementation of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality and express our gratitude to Amb. Melanne Vermeer, Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Gender Issues, for presenting her report.

Back in 1999 at the OSCE Istanbul Summit the Heads of State and Government declared that “full and equal exercise by women of their human rights is essential to achieve a more peaceful, prosperous and democratic OSCE area.” Indeed, only with equal rights, women can have more important roles in contributing to comprehensive security in all three dimensions.

Azerbaijan remains a strong proponent of cross-dimensional approach towards addressing gender perspective.

We reiterate the value and importance of the 2004 OSCE Gender Action Plan and recognize the improvements made in this area since its adoption. We also deem it necessary to adequately elaborate all priority areas identified in the Action Plan and to update it in order to better reflect existing and emerging challenges.

In this regard, we welcome the fact that the Report of the Secretary General recommends undertaking renewed efforts to adopt an addendum to the Action Plan.

In light of a preparation of addendum, we wish to reiterate importance of paying due attention to needs and concerns of vulnerable groups, in particular refugee and internally displaced girls and women. To this end, we recall, in particular the Ljubljana decision of 2005, where participating States agreed to take into account important role and particular needs of women and girls in implementing government policies on protection and durable solutions including voluntary return, resettlement, rehabilitation, (re)integration or repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons in safety and dignity.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.