



Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
1174th Meeting of the Permanent Council,
01 February 2018

*in response to presentations of the Chairs of the Security Committee,
Economic and Environmental Committee
and the Human Dimension Committee*

Mr. Chairperson,

Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan joins the previous speakers in thanking Ambassadors Gonzalez Roman, Sarybay and MacLeod for their presentations on work plans of the three Committees for 2018.

Our Delegation provided its detailed comments on priorities and work plans during discussions of respective committees. Herewith, I would like to highlight few issues of specific importance.

In the First Committee, we support taking a holistic approach to countering terrorism, as well as preventing violent extremism and radicalization. In this regard, addressing the root causes of terrorism and radicalization, identifying and weakening the links between terrorism and other criminal activities, financing of terrorism, linkage between organized crime and money laundering need to be integrated into the agenda of the Security Committee.

We are looking forward to discuss initiatives aimed at raising awareness on various forms of illicit trafficking across the OSCE region. In the area of cyber security, we welcome the focus on meaningful implementation of confidence and security-building measures.

Azerbaijan remains firm in its belief that untapped potential of the second dimension has to be utilized with a view to enhancing comprehensive security through sustainable development. In this regard, promotion of economic connectivity through transport links and corridors in line with provisions of respective OSCE decisions is of paramount importance. We welcome the focus on such topics as development of human capital, promotion of good governance and digital economy, which are also among the priorities of the Government of Azerbaijan.

In the third dimension, as a general remark, we would like to underline that the priorities of the Chairmanship and Human Dimension Package need to complement each other and address all issues stemming from our human dimension commitments, especially those, which are not included into the work plan of Human Dimension Committee.

We strongly support the focus on countering all forms of racism, xenophobia, intolerance and discrimination including those based on religious grounds. As a strong proponent of multiculturalism and inter-cultural dialogue Azerbaijan remains ready to support the activities in this regard.

Forced displacement in OSCE area due to unresolved conflicts deprives millions of people of their basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, which should be addressed within HD events. In this regard, we encourage the Italian Chairmanship and the Chair of the Committee to facilitate discussions on implementation of existing OSCE commitments on IDP's.

In conclusion, we thank once again to Chairs of the three Committees for their presentations and wish them every success in chairing the work of respective committees.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson