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**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
1185<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council,  
10 May 2018**

*on recent developments in Armenia*

Mr. Chairperson,

It was not the intention of the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan to comment on recent developments in Armenia. In so doing, our expectation was that the Ambassador of Armenia and the new Prime Minister of this country will focus on the ways of overcoming deep internal socio-economic crisis, which caused large-scale public protests, ousted previous Government and brought about hopes for better future for the Armenian people.

Since the Armenian Ambassador and the Delegation of the United States of America referred in their statements under the current issue “on recent developments in Armenia” to the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, we are compelled to make the following comments.

It is unfortunate and deplorable that the new Prime Minister of Armenia started his first working day with the trip to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and replicated old Armenian conflict narrative.

The Armenian Prime Minister during his first days in office asserted that the essence of the conflict is the issue of protection of human rights. Everyone around this table, including the Ambassador of Armenia would agree that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms must be accorded on an equal and non-discriminatory basis. No right can be exercised at the expense of the violation of the rights of others.

In this respect, we would like to inquire from the Armenian Ambassador how the expressed position of Armenia’s Prime Minister reconciles with the requirement to ensure equal exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by the Azerbaijani community of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, if the region remains ethnically cleansed from the Azerbaijani population and they are denied the right to return back to their places of origin? How the Armenian Prime Minister can demand recognition of human rights of the Armenian population of the Nagorno-Karabakh region, if he refuses to recognize equal rights of the expelled Azerbaijanis of the Nagorno-Karabakh region?

It is beyond any doubt that the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan is not only a major threat to security of the region, but also one of the main root causes of current dire situation, which Armenia finds itself in. The status-quo of occupation has no future and until it persists, its consequences for internal situation in Armenia will only worsen. The more Armenia relies

on the conflict, the less are the chances to find sustainable solution to its internal problems. Solving the conflict will allow Armenia to benefit from regional development agenda. A peaceful solution is possible only within the framework identified by the international law, and relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council. Experience of the last three decades should have served as a lesson that future of independent Armenia in the region is unavoidably dependent on establishing good-neighborly relations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.