



**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
1196th Meeting of the Permanent Council,
4 October 2018**

*in response to Under-Secretary-General
of the United Nations Office of Counter-
Terrorism, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov*

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of Azerbaijan warmly welcomes Ambassador Vladimir Voronkov, the Under-Secretary General of the UN, to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his presentation.

Terrorism continues to pose a serious threat to international peace and security, to the rule of law and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as to the political independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and social and economic development of States.

The Republic of Azerbaijan strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. All terror acts regardless of their motivation constitute serious crime and must be condemned and prosecuted.

Priority should be given to continued implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant U.N. Security Council Resolutions, including through addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

Areas of armed conflict, especially territories under foreign military occupation, create conditions conducive to exploitation by terrorists, separatists and other organized criminal groups and networks. The accumulation of a great number of armaments and munitions in these territories beyond the control of legitimate governments and relevant international mechanisms, and the risk of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction pose a serious threat to international peace and security. Thus being said, early resolution of armed conflicts must be a priority.

The war on terrorism cannot and must not be used to target any religion or culture. That principle must be part of any counter-terrorism strategy. It is extremist ideologies, the lack of rule of law, discrimination and intolerance on ethnic, national and religious grounds, deliberate labeling of religions, socio-economic marginalization, lack of education and the hate speech that are the key factors that contribute to spread of terrorism and violent extremism.

Promoting education and inclusive societies, enhancing intercultural dialogue, religious tolerance and understanding may play essential role to prevent the misconceptions and defamatory manifestations, which, at the end, will contribute to the efficiency of counter-terrorism efforts. Azerbaijan, as a multinational, multi-confessional country, where many nationalities and practitioners of all religions live together in peace and harmony, has an exemplary role in this regard. Our country hosted numerous events aimed at promoting better understanding among representatives of various religions. Azerbaijan hosted the 7th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and we remain determined to continue our cooperation with

international and regional organizations and ready to share our best practices and experiences in this field.

This is an area where OSCE with its concept of comprehensive security can also play a complementary role. To that end, we encourage UN Office of Counter-Terrorism and OSCE's relevant structures to closely cooperate in addressing the root causes of terrorism and violent extremism.

Once again, I would like to thank Under-Secretary General V.Voronkov for his presence in the Permanent Council and wish him every success in his endeavors.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.