



**Closing Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan,
22nd Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council,
4 December 2015/Belgrade**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan thanks our Serbian hosts for warm hospitality and excellent organization of the Belgrade Ministerial Council. We express our gratitude for the tireless efforts of the Serbian Chairmanship aimed at overcoming many challenges in the OSCE.

We observe that the balance of the three dimensions of security is undermined and there are attempts to use the human dimension for exerting pressure on participating States.

Ignorance to violation of mandates and serious deficiencies in activities of the OSCE executive structures and field presences question their relevance. We regret that decision on OSCE/ODIHR proposed by Azerbaijan was not adopted due to lack of engagement by some delegations. Instead of dialogue, these delegations chose blaming and shaming exercise. We condemn such an attitude and suggest those delegations, which refuse to engage into dialogue to consider to what extent such an approach helps restoring trust and is in the interests of the OSCE.

I hope that priorities of the German Chairmanship announced by the Foreign Minister F. Steinmeier, namely dialogue, confidence and security will prevail next year, and in this regard we wish every success to the incoming German Chairmanship.

I request you to attach this statement to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson