



**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
1111st Meeting of the Permanent Council,
28 July 2016**

*on the adoption of Ministerial Council Decision on the
OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2018*

Mr. Chairperson,

The Republic of Azerbaijan welcomed the decision of the Government of the Italian Republic to chair the OSCE in 2018 and views this as a demonstration of Italy's willingness to contribute to realization of the mission of the Organization to enhance peace and security in its area based on Principles Guiding Inter-State Relations enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act.

We took note of the position of Italy as incoming Chairmanship-in-Office of the OSCE in 2018 with regard to resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. As a candidate for this responsible post, Italy held consultations with Azerbaijan and pledged to consult with Azerbaijan on matters related to the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia. We expect implementation of these commitments.

Italy committed to support the resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict in full compliance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, OSCE decisions and documents, in particular on the basis of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders, as it was endorsed in the Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Italian Republic.

The statement we just heard runs counter to the commitments and understandings reached at bilateral level. Azerbaijan will support the efforts of incoming Italian OSCE Chairmanship on peaceful resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict in accordance with the relevant provisions of the above-mentioned joint declaration.

We ask this statement be attached to the journal of the day and the decision adopted.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.