



Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
1076th Meeting of the Permanent Council,
12 November 2015

on ODIHR report on human rights situation of detainees at Guantanamo

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan took note of the report by OSCE/ODIHR on human rights situation of detainees at Guantanamo. The report has been transmitted to the capital for detailed study by the relevant state institutions. Herewith, we would like to share our preliminary comments.

We took note that the ODIHR had faced certain restrictions in preparing the report, including in terms of having direct contacts with the detainees.

We remain to be concerned over the violations of basic norms of the international human rights law and international humanitarian law with respect to the detainees at Guantanamo, including but not limited to prohibition of arbitrary detention, right to free and fair trial, prevention of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, restrictions of freedom of religion or belief.

In this context, we urge the authorities in Washington to end impunity for and ensure prompt, independent, impartial, thorough and effective investigation of the violations identified in the report and bring the perpetrators to justice without further delay. In this regard, we further encourage the United States to promptly follow-up ODIHR recommendations and keep the Permanent Council informed about the progress achieved.

Having said that we reserve our right to come back to the issue at appropriate OSCE formats in due course.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.