



## **Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

### ***1058<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting of the Permanent Council,***

***09 June 2015***

*in response to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Igor Crnadak*

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan warmly welcomes the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Igor Crnadak to the meeting of the Permanent Council and thanks him for comprehensive presentation on his country's priorities in its capacity as the Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

We are pleased to note that issues of high importance for Azerbaijan, such as prevention of violence against women, promotion of inter-cultural dialogue, as well as strengthening the relations with neighboring regions of the Council of Europe have been identified as priorities for the Bosnian Chairmanship. Azerbaijan shares the view that addressing these issues in an effective and comprehensive manner is of extreme relevance for maintaining stability and security in our region. We also attach great importance on dealing with growing trend of radicalization, especially among the youth, and in this regard we assure our support for the Bosnian Chairmanship in tackling with this threatening phenomenon. These are also issues that present great opportunities for cooperation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE.

Cooperation at the multilateral level represents itself as an important dimension of Azerbaijani-Bosnian relations. Our countries enjoy excellent bilateral relations in numerous fields of common interest. Recent years have been remarkable in terms of intensity of exchanges of high-level visits between our friendly countries, which present opportunity for relevant state bodies of both sides to explore the ways of further development of bilateral cooperation in the fields of economy, investment, education, cultural and humanitarian contacts, to name just the few. Reciprocal visits, as well as regular dialogue between high-level officials of our countries is key for further strengthening Azerbaijani-Bosnian relations, we remain ready to continue this practice in future.

Bosnia's firm support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Azerbaijan and earliest solution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict within this framework is an indispensable element for the development of our mutually beneficial relations. In this context, we cannot but recall the resolution entitled "Respecting and supporting sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan" adopted by the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2013 and renew our gratitude to our Bosnian partners for their solidarity with Azerbaijan in standing against crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing, acquisition of territory and change of internationally recognized borders of the States by force.

It is within this context we encourage the Bosnian Delegation to the OSCE to reconsider its alignment policy at the Permanent Council to the statements impacting our bilateral relations.

In conclusion we thank once again Mr. Minister for his appearance at the Permanent Council and wish him every success in his future endeavors as the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.