



STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

1066th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council September 3, 2015

in response to the SG on implementation of OSCE Gender Action Plan

Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to thank Secretary General for presenting an Annual Evaluation Report on the implementation of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality.

Back in 1999 at the OSCE Istanbul Summit the Heads of State or Government declared that *“The full and equal exercise by women of their human rights is essential to achieve a more peaceful, prosperous and democratic OSCE area.”*

Protection of the rights of women, enhancing women’s participation in social and political life of the country, as well prevention of violence against women and protection of victims of domestic violence are the issues that under the close attention of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Efforts in this direction were further institutionalized by establishing a separate State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs back in 2006.

We note that last year marked the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the OSCE Gender Action Plan. While reiterating the importance and value of this document we recognize the improvements made in this area including in the OSCE, which have to be accordingly reflected. We note with satisfaction that a number of important

decisions pertaining to women have been adopted since 2004 in the OSCE. Our Delegation also had been actively engaged in the discussions of the Decision on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women agreed last year at the Ministerial Council meeting in Basel. We regret that due to an unconstructive position of one delegation we failed to produce a comprehensive and substantial document that would address the needs and concerns of all victims, including from vulnerable groups. The notion of vulnerable groups is far from being new in OSCE and the Ministerial Council decision 15/05 on Prevention and Combating Violence against Women contains a clear reference to them.

We recall that this year we mark 15th anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security which calls, *inter alia*, for the full respect and protection of the rights of women and girls during and after armed conflict and an end of impunity for perpetrators of gender-base violence.

In light of a preparation of the Addendum to the 2004 OSCE Action Plan on Promotion of Gender Equality we wish to reiterate the importance to deliver a document that would cover all the priority areas identified in the Action Plan with a focus among others on the needs and concerns of the refugee and internally displaced girls and women.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.