



Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan

1072nd Meeting of the Permanent Council,

22 October 2015

violation by the OSCE/ODIHR of its mandate

Thank you,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan would like to update the Permanent Council on the situation emerged as a result of violation by the Director of the OSCE/ODIHR of his mandate.

In the aftermath of discussions at last Council Meeting the Azerbaijani side engaged in intensive discussions with ODIHR to find a way out of current unfortunate situation emerged due to cancellation of the ODIHR election observation mission for parliamentary election in Azerbaijan to be held on November 1.

Bearing in mind that restoration of full-fledged election observation mission might not be possible at this stage, as it was reported by ODIHR the Azerbaijani side expressed its readiness to consider other forms of ODIHR's engagement with the upcoming parliamentary election that would correspond to standing invitation of Azerbaijan.

Regretfully, ODIHR did not positively consider the request of the Azerbaijani side to be engaged in upcoming election and instead, suggested to organize a visit of ODIHR experts to Azerbaijan only after elections. No substantiated argument in favor of declining the requested election-related assistance was provided.

We consider such attitude by the ODIHR as non-constructive. We engaged in consultations with a view to remedy the situation emerged as a result of a decision taken by Director Link in violation of his mandate. It is unfortunate that the OSCE/ODIHR refuses to render the assistance to the OSCE participating State on

the eve and at the election day. It is neither in line with its mandate nor with the spirit of cooperation of the OSCE.

Very limited time remains until the election day. We hope that ODIHR will reconsider its position and re-engage in good faith in consultations to find a way out of the situation until the elections held.

We will continue to keep the Council informed about the item under consideration.

Thank you.