



Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
the 1050th meeting of the Permanent Council

May 7, 2015

*In response to the statement of France delivered on behalf of the co-chairmen of
the OSCE Minsk Group*

Mr. Chairperson,

We took due note of the statement of the Delegation of France delivered on behalf of the co-chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group, as well as the statements of those Delegations, which took the floor to reject the illegal “elections” held in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Our Delegation does not intend to speak in depth on this issue, since we have already made our position clear at Permanent Council meetings by declaring that “...against the background of continuing military occupation and ethnic cleansing of the territories of Azerbaijan, the holding of “elections” to the structures of the puppet separatist regime there constitutes a clear violation of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the norms and principles of international law, and, therefore, shall have no legal effect whatsoever”.

I took the floor, first of all to express our gratitude to the OSCE participating States, such as the Republic of Turkey, Ukraine, Georgia, Spain, Estonia, Romania, Slovenia and the Czech Republic, the Foreign Ministries of which in separate statements expressed their solidarity with the Republic of Azerbaijan and thus, demonstrated their adherence to the principles that lie at the very core of this

Organization in rejecting the situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan created through illegal use of force against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan accompanied by massive ethnic cleansing of indigenous Azerbaijani population from these territories and other serious war crimes and crimes against humanity. We also thank other OSCE participating States and international organizations, such as the EU, NATO and OIC, who took firm position not to recognize these illegal “elections”. The reaction of the international community to Armenia’s most recent provocative step illustrates that Armenia’s policy of annexation of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan has no chance of succeeding and neither the Republic of Azerbaijan nor the international community will reconcile with acquisition of territory by force.

Secondly, we would like to underline the followings with regard to one specific point contained in the statement of the co-chairmen, namely the notion of “the people of Nagorno-Karabakh” and reference to “their role in deciding their future”. It is our understanding that notion of the people of Nagorno Karabakh envisages not only the population, which currently resides in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, but also the expelled Azerbaijani community of the region. Indeed, claiming otherwise would be tantamount to reconciling with the results of ethnic cleansing, which is unacceptable.

It is our firm belief that although each and every conflict is unique in its underlying dynamics, the principles, upon which the settlement of any conflict should be based, are same and these principles should be applied without any preferences or double standards. The international community, as well as the OSCE and its institutions and structures should take unified and principled position in rejecting any attempt of unilateral secession of part of territory of any state without due consent.

Within this context, we should be consistent in our policy and approach vis-à-vis to separatists, who organized armed violence challenging constitutional and legal order of the States. Separatism, as well as separatists regardless of their area of activities should be treated in the same manner, in accordance with international law and basic tenets of the rule of law. Any manifestation of double standards is unacceptable, in this regard.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.