



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

### ***1053<sup>d</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council,***

***21 May 2015***

*in response to the Minister of Women's Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, H.E Dilbar Nazari*

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of Azerbaijan warmly welcomes the Minister of Women's Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan H.E. Dilbar Nazari to the Permanent Council and thanks her for comprehensive presentation.

Azerbaijan attaches utmost importance to restoring stability and ensuring sustainable development of Afghanistan. We remain committed to contribute to security in the country by providing troops, multimodal transit, training and financial assistance. In particular, Azerbaijan made one million Euros donation to the Afghanistan National Army (ANA) Trust Fund, and will additionally donate 2 million Euros to the Trust Fund.

Experience of the last decade demonstrated that military assistance alone is not enough for establishing sustainable peace in Afghanistan. Therefore, my country's contribution to the stability of Afghanistan goes well beyond of our involvement in NATO operation. We support Afghanistan on its path towards self-reliance by enhancing practical contributions in the areas of education and training, infrastructure development, investments, and financial aid.

ADA University in Azerbaijan holds annual governance training courses for Afghan officials in addition to NATO trainings at its facilities, our Mine Agency provides mine-awareness projects, Ministry of Emergency allows Afghan nationals

to have a full 4-year education at its Academy, and we are building a school in Afghanistan.

We also help Afghan government in its vast reform agenda. Transport infrastructure is a very important part of it. We aim to link Afghanistan and Europe in the shortest way possible. New Alat Sea Port on the Caspian shore of Azerbaijan and Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway, linking Turkey, Georgia and Azerbaijan, will bring its added-value in this regard, restoring the ancient Silk Road.

In conclusion, we once again thank Mme. Minister for her presence at the Permanent Council and wish her, her team in Vienna and entire friendly and brotherly Afghan people every success in their efforts to transform Afghanistan into a secure, stable and prosperous country.

Thank You, Mr. Chairperson.