



## Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan

### *1063<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council, 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2015*

*in response to H.E. Ambassador Ramil Hasanov, Secretary General of the Cooperation Council  
of Turkic Speaking States and*

*H.E. Mr. Jandos Asanov, Secretary General of  
the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries (TURK PA)*

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan warmly welcomes back H.E. Ambassador Ramil Hasanov, Secretary General of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States and H.E. Jandos Asanov, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries (TURK PA) to the Permanent Council and thanks them for comprehensive and interesting presentations on activities of the Cooperation Council and TURK PA. We are also grateful to the Serbian Chairmanship of the OSCE for inviting our today's guest speakers to the Permanent Council.

The Turkic world covers a large geographical space, possesses huge amounts of natural resources, its members' total population is more than one hundred million; demonstrate impressive economic growth indicators, realizing most ambitious trans-regional mega projects. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation among the member-states of the Turkic Council creates new positive realities in our part of the world and contributes immensely to developing values of cooperation and good-neighborliness, integrating them into European, Asian and global markets.

We are especially pleased to note increasing solidarity and cooperation among the member-states of the Turkic Council and intensification of high-level dialogue among the political leadership of these countries. The common position of the Turkic Council with regard to security challenges has proven its paramount importance for maintaining stability and sustainable development in the region and beyond. In particular, we highly appreciate the principled position of the Turkic Council with regard to the resolution of the conflicts on the basis of territorial integrity and sovereignty and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of member states.

The Turkic Council and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic Speaking Countries represent the common will of four member-states to further deepen mutually beneficial cooperation in all fields of common interest and to foster dialogue with a view to contributing to regional peace, prosperity and stability. These issues are of extreme relevance for the OSCE agenda and thus, we

find today's presentations as timely and pertinent in the context of improving the OSCE's cooperation with Turkic Council and TURK PA.

I have to underline that the multilateral cooperation within these organizations is not directed against any third countries, it is based on commonly recognized norms and principles of international law, UN Charter and Helsinki Final Act. The activities of the Turkic Council to develop its international relations, as outlined by Mr. Secretary-General, demonstrate that the organization genuinely pursues policy of fostering cooperation without any hidden agenda. Therefore, we encourage further development of dialogue between the Turkic Council and the OSCE. As a member state of both organizations, we are looking forward to defining further areas of collaboration between OSCE and Turkic Council that will promote values and tasks shared by both organizations.

We are convinced that cooperation of Turkic Council and TURKPA with the OSCE will provide valuable impetus to achieving our common objectives in the OSCE region, including promotion of inter-cultural dialogue, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, fight against transnational threats, maintaining regional security, and could contribute to the consolidation of trade and investment opportunities.

We encourage the OSCE Secretary General and relevant OSCE institutions to explore the opportunities of intensifying cooperation with the Turkic Council and TURKPA.

In conclusion, we wish Ambassador Ramil Hasanov and H.E. Mr. Jandos Asanov every success in their future endeavors.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

**Right of reply:**

Mr.Chairperson,

I took the floor to respond to the EU and aligned states, the USA and Armenia. First of all, regarding the relevance of the Turkic Council and TURK PA for the work of the OSCE, I would like to remind that the underlying essence of the OSCE is dialogue and openness. According to my humble practice of working with the OSCE, we have always been open for participation of many organizations, as well as NGOs in the framework of the OSCE, sometimes even in violation of the rules of procedures.

The Turkic Council and TURK PA cannot be excluded, in this regard. The more we work for breaking stereotypes, the better will be chances to engage in genuine dialogue, which is embedded in very basis of this Organization.

As for the comments of the distinguished Ambassador of the United States on 1<sup>st</sup> European Games held in Azerbaijan, I will limit myself to quote the US Ambassador to Azerbaijan, who stated the followings: "I want to congratulate the organizers and performers for an excellent opening ceremony, which not only expressed so much about Azerbaijan's history and culture, but also demonstrated the sense that the Azerbaijani people see their future as a part of Europe. The international sporting events like the Games are a great way to bring people of different countries and cultures together. These Games, in particular bring together a number of European countries

where there have been and are conflicts, so they can contribute to the shared goal of realizing the Europe that is whole, free, and at peace". This is the assessment of the US Ambassador and I regret that his assessments on Azerbaijan are not fully shared by entire State Department.

I also express my profound disagreement with groundless allegations put forward by the distinguished Delegate of Armenia. OSCE is a platform for dialogue of 57 participating States. So, one participating State cannot block the other international institutions to participate at and contribute to the work of the OSCE.

As for the position of the Turkic Council with regard to resolution of the conflicts, it should be particularly noted that this position is based on generally accepted norms and principles of international law enshrined in the UN Charter and founding documents of the OSCE, in particular the Helsinki Final Act. The conflicts are to be resolved exclusively on the basis of these principles, if they are resolved peacefully. It is the Republic of Armenia that with its aggressive policy and violations of these principles puts itself against these principles and therefore, feels offended by references to international law.

Furthermore, if the Armenian side has any genuine concern with the activities of these organizations, it could talk to the representatives and engage in dialogue with them to dispel its concerns.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.