



## Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan

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

#### *Right of reply in response to the statements of EU, USA and Armenia*

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, while abusing its own kinship solidarity with certain participating States.

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.