



**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan**  
**1067<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council,**  
**10 September 2015**

*in response to the report of the Director of the Conflict Prevention Center*

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan joins previous speakers in welcoming Mr. Marcel Pesko as a new Director of the Conflict Prevention Center and wishes him success in his challenging post.

Due to its late distribution, our Delegation had extremely limited time to reflect upon the report of the CPC Director. Therefore, I will limit myself to only few issues of particular concern.

First of all, regarding the closure of the Project Coordinator in Baku we would like to underline that the narrative reflected in the report is not acceptable. The point that decision of the Azerbaijani authorities to terminate the Memorandum of Understanding on the Project Coordinator came as unexpected does not reflect the reality. In fact, the Azerbaijani side several times informed the senior leadership of the OSCE about certain undesired developments around the former Project Coordinator, in particular attempts to exert undue external pressure on him to move beyond his mandate. In so doing, we requested the OSCE to take necessary measures to prevent the situation from deteriorating. Unfortunately, this did not happen and despite the fact that we were satisfied with the activities of the Project Coordinator, unacceptable interferences into the work of the field mission led the Azerbaijani authorities to exercise its sovereign right and to terminate the Memorandum of Understanding.

Therefore, the decision of the Azerbaijani side could not be described as unexpected or surprising for the CPC. On the contrary, it would have been expected from the OSCE structures, including the CPC to reflect on the causes of this case, rather than providing the one-sided interpretation. The reasons for the closure of the Project Coordinator and its consequences for the CPC could be inadequate reaction to the concerns of the Azerbaijani side, inaction by the OSCE

structures to prevent external pressure on the field mission or inability to do so, as well as lack of exit strategy of the CPC. Accordingly, all these issues should have been adequately analyzed by the CPC in its current report.

We also took note of the point that the closure process caused stress for the OSCE staff. While understanding this, it should also be noted that the OSCE staff dealing with the closure process was not alone in this regard, and stress that former Project Coordinator experienced in discharging his duties under the mandate and coping with external pressure exerted on him to violate the mandate of the field mission, should also be duly taken into account.

This is an issue that require close attention and due consideration by the CPC and participating States, especially those that spoke on the importance of the OSCE field missions before me. Without such a comprehensive assessment of the case, we found the respective part of the report as non-objective and one-sided.

The second issue I would like to raise is related to CPC's potential contribution to the solution of the protracted conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Our Delegation has on numerous occasions raised the issue of distributing papers on behalf of illegal regime established in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. This is by no means in line with the principles of this Organization and does not contribute to the solution of the conflict. In this context, we would appreciate if the Distinguished Director of the CPC could elaborate on the role of this institution in preventing such an unacceptable practice within the OSCE.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.