



Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan

1073rd Meeting of the Permanent Council,

29 October 2015

in response to the report of the Director of the OSCE/ODIHR on HDIM

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of Azerbaijan welcomes Director Link to the Permanent Council. We took note of the report on the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and in this regard would like to stress the followings.

We recall that the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting was designed to provide a venue for discussing the implementation of OSCE commitments. Against this background, it is of profound regret that over recent years HDIM has not achieved its original aim of providing a platform for dialogue. Instead, it is mostly abused for blaming and shaming certain OSCE participating States and consequently, further erodes the trust and confidence within the Organization. As a result, serious questions emerge about the added-value of HDIM, in its current form, for the work of the OSCE. In this context, we underline the urgent need for the review of Human Dimension events and encourage the incoming OSCE Chairmanship to intensify the work to that end.

We further regret that this year's Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, was once again misused for promotion and propagation of the illegal separatist regime established by Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. It has been internationally recognized that this regime is the product of illegal use of force against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan accompanied by heinous crimes, including ethnic cleansing, war crimes, crimes against humanity and acts of genocide.

In this context, the participation of an NGO associated to and actively promoting the illegal separatist regime can by no means be in line with the principles that the OSCE stands for and therefore, diametrically contrary to the very aim of HDIM. The Azerbaijani side feels compelled to remind that in accordance with CSCE Helsinki Document of 1992, non-governmental organizations, which “resort to the use of violence or publicly condone terrorism or the use of violence”, shall not be allowed to participate at the OSCE events.

In light of the above-mentioned, we regret that the ODIHR has failed to act in defending the core values and principles of the OSCE and took no step in response to the official request of the Azerbaijani side to prevent obvious attempts to misuse the HDIM for promotion of the results of illegal use of force against the territorial integrity of the OSCE participating State.

It is within this context that the Delegation of Azerbaijan strongly urges the Director of ODIHR to take all necessary measures to stop such an unacceptable practice of admission of NGOs propagating separatist regimes to HDIMs. Failure to do so cannot but further undermine the credibility of this event.

I would like also to respond to allegations made by the Distinguished Ambassador of the United States. I would like to stress that people are imprisoned in Azerbaijan for the violation of the national legislation. Calling on Azerbaijan to release them is an attempt to exert pressure on us. I call on the distinguished Ambassador of the United States to stop selective approach to the human dimension commitments.

We call on the US Government to engage in open discussions of serious human rights violations taking place in the country, in particular long-term imprisonment of civilians in Guantanamo, discriminate and degrading treatment, torture against detainees. We encourage the US Government to provide detainees with their basic human rights, such as right to fair trial and open judicial proceedings.

We also encourage the ODIHR and other OSCE executive structures to thoroughly investigate every incident of human rights violations in Guantanamo and to present a report to the Permanent Council.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.