



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

### ***1075<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council,***

***05 November 2015***

*on the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists*

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

We also would like to share our comments on the agenda item under consideration. Freedom of expression and free and independent media are necessary prerequisites for security and development of the OSCE participating States.

I am glad that in Azerbaijan we have established a solid foundation for free, pluralistic and independent media. Close to 5000 representatives of media functioning in Azerbaijan are providing our citizens with important information for their daily life and political discussions, as well as expose problems and difficulties in our society.

No OSCE participating States is immune from the instances of violation of freedom of expression. Constructive discussions in the OSCE could play a critical role for improving implementation of our common commitments by all OSCE participating States. What we cannot accept that is using of such instances of violation of freedom of expression for pursuing narrow political interests. We will strongly oppose such attempts.

I deeply regret that distinguished Ambassador of the United States of America has again demonstrated selective approach to the issue under consideration and singled out Azerbaijan in his intervention. I encourage him to take a balanced approach, to engage in non-selective, constructive dialogue and start his criticism first of all from his own country, the United States of America, where over recent years many acts of violence against journalists have been registered.

Thank you Mr. Chairman