



Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan

1075th Meeting of the Permanent Council,

05 November 2015

in response to the statements on the November 1 parliamentary election in Azerbaijan

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

We took note of the statements delivered by the distinguished Ambassador of the United States of America, Luxemburg on behalf of the EU and aligned countries, Switzerland, Canada, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Their content will be communicated to the capital.

I wish to thank the distinguished Ambassadors of the Russian Federation, Turkey and Belarus for congratulating the people of Azerbaijan over the parliamentary elections held on November 1. According to the findings of international observer missions, including the Election Observation Missions of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, CIS and TURKPA the elections were free, fair and democratic with a high voter turnout, thus reflecting the will of the Azerbaijani nation. We express our gratitude to those OSCE participating States and international organizations who accepted the invitation of the Government of Azerbaijan and sent their respective observation missions for election.

Mr. Chairman,

It was for the first time in the history of independent Azerbaijan that OSCE/ODIHR refused to cooperate with Azerbaijan on the election. Self-isolation of the ODIHR and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly from the election process in Azerbaijan today leaves no space for any meaningful discussions on their role in parliamentary elections. In fact, we consider this matter for the OSCE as the missed opportunity to assist Azerbaijan in the election process, as it is envisaged by the mandate of ODIHR.

As the issue of violation by the Director of ODIHR of his mandate is concerned, the position of the Government and leadership of Azerbaijan is very well known

and have repeatedly been communicated by our Delegation to the OSCE Permanent Council over the last two months. We have been open and constructive with the ODIHR in order to remedy the consequences of violation of the mandate. Our Delegation has repeatedly suggested to ODIHR to continue cooperation with Azerbaijan on the election. We tried to convince the ODIHR that the decision to cancel the election observation in Azerbaijan will set a negative precedent of violation of its mandate. Unfortunately, ODIHR did not heed our appeals and refused to cooperate with Azerbaijan on this election. Such an attitude by the ODIHR essentially undermines any prospects for cooperation with this institution until the situation is rectified.

In conclusion, I wish to stress that Azerbaijan looks forward to continue its cooperation with the OSCE Institutions and OSCE participating States, including the EU member States, in accordance with the agreed decisions and on the basis of the OSCE principles.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.