



Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan

1057th Special Meeting of the Permanent Council,

08 June 2015

on termination of the Project Coordinator in Baku

Mr. Chairman,

Unlike other Delegations, I do not have a prepared statement in front of me so I will group my remarks in the following parts.

I should like to start by expressing the feeling that our Delegation is no less surprised by the decision of the OSCE Serbian Chairmanship to convene a Special Permanent Council meeting today without any consultation with Azerbaijan as a host-nation. This does not serve the purpose of building trust, nor to cooperative security. Similarly, a decision to recall Ambassador Chakhtahtinsky from the position of the Head of the OSCE Project Coordinator in Baku was taken without any consultations with the host nation authorities.

Such a non-transparent and non-inclusive process of decision-making as well as today's discussions illustrated a split among the Delegations where some participating States spoke in favor of respecting the sovereign rights of the host-nation, while others were advocating for continuation of the OSCE field mission without consent of a participating State that hosts it. This indicates that there is a serious problem within the Organization on the issue of OSCE field presence that we should address. The Government of Azerbaijan as a host nation exercises its right for sovereignty, as it is enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, and expects it to be respected by the OSCE.

As for the criticism that the decision of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan is surprising, taken in a haste and without consultations with participating States, I would like to underline the fact that those Delegations, which raised such a criticism, are in fact more aware and informed about the processes that prompted the closure of the Project Coordinator in Baku than those Delegations who supported the sovereign rights of OSCE participating States.

While Azerbaijan, as the host-nation had not been able to get any answer or reasonable explanation to our questions on the short-term extension of his mandate, the critical Delegations who spoke today were quite assertive in their attempts to influence on the former Project Coordinator's activity.

We were satisfied with Ambassador Chahtahtinsky's activity and the projects he realized in fact were helpful for Azerbaijan. But, we regret that he was recalled because of his rejection of taking steps beyond the mandate and of his resistance to a pressure by some Delegations to make him act in contravention to the mandate adopted by all 57 OSCE participating States.

We insist on necessity for respecting the mandates of OSCE field presences and sovereign rights of the OSCE participating States. The Azerbaijani side does not accept any discrimination in this regard and we responded adequately to the moves directed against the commonly agreed mandate. Such an unfortunate series of events led to the decision of the Government of Azerbaijan about the irrelevance of the OSCE field mission in the country.

The decision of the Government to terminate the Memorandum of Understanding is taken and we have to finalize the closing down of the OSCE Project Coordinator in Baku until the 4th of July.

We are of different opinion with the distinguished Secretary-General in terms of reasonability of one month time for managing technical issues that arose from the decision to terminate the activities of the Project Coordinator in Baku. We have already consulted with the former Project Coordinator, as well as the staff of the mission and we were informed that 2 weeks time is enough to close down the field presence.

Our Delegation remains ready for consultation with the Secretariat on the ways of tackling the issues arising from the termination and discussing the procedures to be followed within the timeframe that is granted by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Thank you.