



**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
1102nd Meeting of the Permanent Council,
02 June 2016**

in response to Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan warmly welcomes H.E. Mr. Mikheil Janelidze, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his insightful intervention.

Azerbaijan and Georgia enjoys excellent bilateral relations, which certainly are one of the best examples of good-neighborly relations established in this part of the OSCE region. Since regaining independence, our countries have been committed to developing strategic partnership based on mutual interests and guided by shared objectives. This partnership has brought dynamic economic development and much needed political stability to the South Caucasus region, and provided prosperity to our nations.

Azerbaijan-Georgia partnership, as materialized through landmark regional energy and transportation projects, is a driving vehicle for exposing the South Caucasus region for co-operation and integrating it into European and global markets.

We are pleased to observe successful expansion of our cooperation to trilateral and multilateral formats. Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey trilateral format is the best example in this context for enhancing our cooperation in all fields of interest, most notably in development of trans-regional energy and transport infrastructure, as well as military-to-military cooperation. Our countries also enjoy excellent partnership within the GUAM format and continue to work on establishment of Free Trade Zone of GUAM, development of GUAM Transport Corridor, furthering effective cooperation among law-enforcement bodies in combating trans-national threats, and implementation of joint projects in the fields of energy and tourism.

Mr. Minister, as you mentioned, establishment of informal working group by Azerbaijan, Georgia Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Turkey on promotion of the East-West Trans-Caspian Trade and Transport Corridor within the OSCE is yet another practical example of fruitful cooperation among our countries and illustrates our common determination to make practical contribution to strengthening security and economic cooperation in the OSCE area.

These partnership frameworks play vital role for consistently transforming our region to an area of cooperation and creating new realities conducive to strengthening political independence of our countries. These partnerships have successfully proved their indispensable role for promoting peace, stability and sustainable development of the South Caucasus.

Against this background, we regret that the unresolved conflicts in Georgia continue to undermine security and stability of the region, and in this context, we would like to reiterate our full support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of Georgia. We continue to believe that the protracted conflicts should be under close focus of the OSCE. We call on the OSCE Chairmanship and participating States to support the efforts of the conflict affected countries in this regard.

In conclusion, we once again thank Mr. Minister Janelidze for his presence at the Permanent Council and wish him and his able team in Vienna every success in their further endeavors.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.