



**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
1114<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council,  
04 October 2016**

*in response to the statement of the Delegation of Armenia*

Mr. Chairperson,

It was not my intention to speak under this hastily made up agenda item. Nevertheless, I will offer my brief comments on this.

The statement of the Delegation of Armenia has not become an exception from usual speculations and allegations and clearly demonstrates that this country is far from engaging in the constructive search for peace and conflict resolution in the region. It is curious that the representative of Armenia – a country that bares full responsibility for unleashing the war, perpetrating aggression against Azerbaijan, carrying out ethnic cleansing on a massive scale, committing other heinous crimes, including massacres in Khojaly, advocating undisguised racist ideology – attempts to lecture here on such notions as human rights.

I would call on Armenian Ambassador to reconsider his perceptions of the April events which were results of constant provocation of the Armenian side against civilian population of Azerbaijan residing along the line of contact. After the April events two high level meetings took place in Vienna and Saint-Petersburg, primary results of which was the agreement to engage in substantive and result-oriented talks. As we understand Armenia took a time out and because of this the talks are currently halted. Rather than repeating his perceptions and speculations, as we have just heard, Armenia should prepare its population for the withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories and removing the major consequence of the conflict that will create conditions for considering other political issues.

As for the technical questions related to the expansion of the Office of Ambassador Kasprzyk, Azerbaijan presented its position on this issue on number of occasions and we have submitted our proposal to the German Chairmanship and Co-Chair countries that reflect the understanding reached in the recent high level meetings.

I will not go into detailed discourse what self-determination means and what it does not mean under the Helsinki Final Act. Suffice it to mention that Armenia is the only country in OSCE, which thinks that this principle means unilateral cessation and violation of human rights of

hundreds of thousands of people. While talking about human rights, the Armenian Ambassador forgets to comment on what Azerbaijan is concerned about, which is large-scale illegal economic activities that are carried out with support and direction of Armenia that are not aimed at providing so-called humanitarian assistance, but pursue the goal of illegally exploiting resources in the occupied territories. I don't know how Armenian Ambassador can justify illegal exploitation of gold mines in the occupied Zangelan and Kalbajar districts or transfer of coal from elsewhere to heat up the power plant in Yerevan by such noble notion of human rights.

Azerbaijan will continue raising this issue again and we will offer more details on the situation on the occupied territories.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.