



**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
1117th Meeting of the Permanent Council,
03 November 2016**

*Illegal economic and other activities
in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan*

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan would like to draw the attention of the Council for yet another time to ongoing illegal economic and other activities in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan by natural and legal persons of some OSCE participating States.

As we have repeatedly underlined on previous occasions, OSCE participating States undertook several commitments relevant to prevention and reversion of illegal activities of their natural and legal persons. Our shared commitments on respect for the principles guiding relations among the States, promotion of accountability and transparency, respect for laws, rules and regulations as well as respect for international human rights and humanitarian law are especially pertinent in this context.

OSCE commitments in all three dimensions are of equal importance and must be unreservedly implemented by all OSCE participating States. Any selective approach to those commitments or failure to uphold them vis-à-vis each other undermine comprehensive nature of security and by no means serve to enhancing mutual trust and confidence within the Organization. All these commitments must be unreservedly honored by all OSCE participating States, regardless of whatsoever differences in their national legislation.

In light of the above-mentioned, we deeply regret the continued failure by the Government of the USA to take effective steps towards honoring relevant OSCE commitments in the context of preventing its natural and legal persons from illegally operating in occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

We urge the Government of the USA to abide by its OSCE and other commitments and take urgent measures to prevent and reverse such activities. We call on the authorities of the USA to take advantage of assistance of relevant OSCE executive structures with a view to bringing their national legislation in line with their international commitments and engage into dialogue on this subject.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.