



**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
1120th Meeting of the Permanent Council,
24 November 2016**

*in response to the reports by the Chairs of the Security Committee,
Economic and Environmental Committee and the Human Dimension Committee*

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan joins the previous speakers in thanking Ambassadors Istrate, Zugic and Pehrman for their comprehensive presentations on the work of three Committees in 2016.

Three committees, as subsidiary bodies of the Permanent Council, have an important role in facilitating dialogue among all OSCE participating States. They should provide a platform for the participating States to discuss issues of common concern in a participatory, interactive and transparent manner and thus, contribute to constructive and result-oriented discussions in the Council. Therefore, we underline the importance of strengthened linkage between the Council and its subsidiary bodies and encourage the Chairs of the three committees to take practical steps to ensure and promote complementarity in this regard.

Deliberations within the Security Committee over the past years have been conducted in a constructive atmosphere. Our Delegation stands ready to continue our work in the same constructive vein.

We support focus on combating terrorism, which continues to threaten stability in the OSCE area. We remain of the view that OSCE should move beyond the context of the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions in combating foreign terrorist fighters, financing of terrorism, including its linkage with other illegal activities and tackling the root causes of terrorism.

We believe that OSCE's approach to the issue of cyber security should not be limited only to elaboration of cyber confidence building measures, but it needs also to focus on cyber capacity building. Moreover, we see merit in engaging private sector to these discussions and intensify efforts on awareness raising about OSCE CBMs among them.

We support the efforts to reinvigorate the second dimension with special focus on transport and trade facilitation and welcome the Austrian Chairmanship's plans to include this topic into its priorities. Full adherence to and implementation of our shared commitments in economic and environmental dimension

by the States and their business community is important for good governance, sustainable economic development and security and stability in OSCE area. We hope that the Economic and Environmental Committee will continue its focus on this topic.

In third dimension, we remain of the view that human dimension related priorities and interests of each and every participating State should be equally addressed within the Committee, without neglecting some issues and focusing on others. Forced displacement continues to be a serious challenge in the OSCE area. Fundamental rights and freedoms of IDPs, in particular their inalienable right to return to their homes in safety and dignity and enjoy their property therein should be addressed in the OSCE. Lack of adequate attention to this issue is a violation of our existing human dimension commitments. Discussions on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the IDPs and refugees held at the Special Human Dimension Committee meeting this September once again revealed high interest of overwhelming majority of OSCE participating States to this topic. We once again encourage the incoming Chairmanship to closely look into possibilities of duly addressing the issue of violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of this vulnerable group.

Azerbaijan supports the practice of voluntary reports within the Human Dimension Committee. This year we have presented the report on Activities of Azerbaijan in combating trafficking in human beings.

Current negative trends pose serious threat to our common vision of an OSCE area without intolerance and discrimination on the ground of racial, ethnic or religious origin. Azerbaijan favors comprehensive approach towards combating these negative phenomena with a view to enhancing dialogue and mutual understanding among the cultures and civilizations. We deeply regret that in Belgrade we failed to enhance OSCE's efforts to combat intolerance and discrimination against Muslims and Christians and expect that our discussions on this topic will produce tangible results ahead of the Hamburg Ministerial.

In conclusion, we thank once again to Chairs of the three Committees for their presentations and wish them and their able teams every success in their future work.

Thank you, Mr.Chairperson.