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**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
1135th Meeting of the Permanent Council,
02 March 2017**

in response to the Delegation of Armenia

Mr. Chairperson,

In exercising my right of reply I would like to stress the following as regards to comments of the representative of Armenia.

I regret that the representative of Armenia is searching for an enemy around this table in the OSCE and across the region. The only enemy to the Armenian nation is the current leadership of Armenia, which created current situation in our region. If Armenia looks around in the region, it would identify that it has been isolated from every project, which runs in the region. There are many platforms in the region, to which Armenia unfortunately cannot join, because it does not respect its neighbors.

There are many bonds between Azerbaijan and Turkey, which could have been shared with Armenia, as a member of the OSCE, and as the representative of Armenia claimed, due to its rich ancient history of Armenian nation hosting Islamic traditions. But this is not the case now. The only reason behind that is the fact that Armenia occupies the territory of neighboring country.

This has been condemned by entire international community. For the last 25 years, Armenia has not moved an inch forward in its claims of “independence” or whatever dreams for the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan will make sure that in next 25 years or 250 years this will not happen either and this is increasingly evident from the situation in the region.

I would like to thank our distinguished colleague from Turkey for explicitly explaining that those bonds, which exist between two countries, help us to demonstrate that devastating reality, in which Armenia finds itself in the region.

There is no single country supporting your claims. 190 members of the United Nations are supporting the cause of Azerbaijan. This is the reality. You should not create virtual reality, due to which you can blame everybody for supporting the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. Look into the mirror and answer the question whether this situation fits to genuine interests of Armenian people, who are already moving to the neighboring countries and prefer not to live in Armenia.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.