



**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
1128<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council,  
19 January 2017**

*in exercise of right of reply to the statement of the Delegation of Armenia*

Mr. Chairperson,

I response to the statement of the representative of the Republic of Armenia, I would like to state the following.

Armenia's persistent denial of its responsibility for the unlawful occupation of and military presence in the territories of Azerbaijan has been effectively put to an end by the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights in its landmark judgment (Merits) of 16 June 2015 on the case of *Chiragov and Others v. Armenia*. The Court ruled in favour of the applicants, who are the six Azerbaijani nationals forcibly displaced from the occupied Lachyn district of Azerbaijan during the Armenian aggression, recognizing continuing violations by Armenia of a number of their rights under the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

Having examined the evidence presented, the Court concluded (i) that “the Republic of Armenia, through its military presence and the provision of military equipment and expertise, has been significantly involved in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict from an early date”, (ii) that “[t]his military support has been – and continues to be – decisive for the conquest of and continued control over the territories in issue”, (iii) that the separatist regime in those territories “survives by virtue of the military, political, financial and other support given to it by Armenia which, consequently, exercises effective control over Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding territories...”.

The Court confirmed its conclusion from the admissibility decision of 14 December 2011, according to which “the ‘NKR’ is not recognized as a State under international law by any countries or international organizations...”, thus reaffirming the position of the international community that overwhelmingly rejected this entity and refused to recognize as legitimate the situation created through the use of force against the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, accompanied by the notorious practice of ethnic cleansing and other flagrant violations of the peremptory norms of international law.

Thank you.