



Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan

*1083rd meeting of the Permanent Council
17 December, 2015*

in response to the OSCE SRCCTHB Amb. Madina Jarbussynova,

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of Azerbaijan warmly welcomes the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for combating trafficking in Human Beings Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova at the Permanent Council and thanks her for a comprehensive report.

We strongly support the work undertaken by the Office of the Special Representative and stress our appreciation of the high level of cooperation established with the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which can be exemplary for other OSCE Institutions.

The Delegation of Azerbaijan shares the concerns over the scale and increasing number of challenges in the area of combating trafficking in human beings in the OSCE area and beyond, which has recently deteriorated due to the ongoing migration crisis, and acknowledges the importance of keeping the issue under the constant OSCE focus.

In this regard, we welcome 15th High Level Conference on Alliance against Trafficking in Persons on *Combating human trafficking along the migration routes*, which highlighted the need for protection of the human rights and dignity of all migrants. This is especially valid against the backdrop of increasing trend of Islamophobia taking place in the OSCE area. We regret that it was not possible to adopt a declaration on Enhancing Efforts to Combat Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims and Christians at the Belgrade Ministerial Council. This document could have sent a strong message of the necessity to respect human rights and freedoms of all migrants without discrimination.

Our Delegation supports intention of the Office to pay particular attention to addressing human trafficking in crisis situations, as well as to systematic targeting of root causes of

crimes of human trafficking. We recall the OSCE PC decision No.557 of 2003, where participating States expressed *concern that root causes of trafficking in human beings, remain insufficiently tackled, in particular causes such as, inter alia unresolved conflicts and post-conflict situations.*

We recognize value of a comprehensive approach to confront the trafficking in human beings, consisting of four Ps such as prevention, protection, prosecution of traffickers and partnership. In this context victim centered approach should remain at the heart of anti-trafficking policies. Awareness raising measures for persons vulnerable to trafficking and initiatives to tackle various socio-economic factors conducive to trafficking should be further more strengthened. Rights of victim to receive compensation and non-punishment provision should be an essential part of effective strategies on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims.

The Delegation of Azerbaijan concurs with the Special Representative that recently launched *2015 Survey to assess the implementation of selected aspects of the OSCE anti-trafficking commitments by participating States* can help to identify best practices and approaches with a view to strengthen the level of implementation of relevant OSCE commitments. The competent authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan have already provided information on the Survey and we encourage those OSCE participating States that have not yet done so to respond to the Survey in an expedient manner.

Using this opportunity we wish once again to thank Ambassador Jarbussynova for visiting Azerbaijan this March. We highly value your objective, constructive and professional approach demonstrated during the meetings with respective Azerbaijani officials, as well as the findings and follow up recommendations. The Azerbaijani side is strongly determined to build upon an effective cooperation established with the Office with a view to counter the challenges in trafficking in human beings in the OSCE region.

In conclusion, we wish Ambassador Jarbussynova and her able team every success in their future endeavors.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.