



**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

***1078<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council,***

***19 November 2015***

*in response to President of the OSCE PA*

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan welcomes the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, H.E. Mr. Ilkka Kanerva to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his intervention.

Azerbaijan values the parliamentary dimension of cooperation within the OSCE area, with the view that it can make significant input to building trust and confidence among the States. It was within this understanding that we successfully hosted the Annual Meeting of the Assembly in Baku in 2014 and expressed our readiness to further deepen cooperation with the Parliamentary Assembly.

In a similar vein, we extended invitation for the Parliamentary Assembly to observe the November 1 parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan. Unfortunately, the Assembly rejected this invitation of the OSCE participating State and instead, opted for following the ODIHR's unilateral decision taken in violation of its mandate. We regret over this decision of the Parliamentary Assembly, which does not contribute to dialogue and cooperation that it stands for.

In response to Delegations of Switzerland and Canada, I would like to reiterate that OSCE executive structures and field missions are assets for all OSCE participating States. We have common ownership over them. Using OSCE executive structures and field missions for some narrow political interests against the will of the OSCE participating States is detrimental to the cooperation and security in the OSCE area.

We, the OSCE participating States created OSCE institutions and field presences and entrusted them to assist us. Therefore, we cannot accept and will not tolerate such situation where they refuse to cooperate and deliver assistance upon request of the OSCE participating States. The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan put forward a proposal for draft decision on ODIHR for the Belgrade Ministerial Council and expects constructive engagement of the Delegations.

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the outcomes of last Annual Meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly held in Helsinki, which expressed its strong support to the continued relevance of the Final Act and the principles enshrined therein in guiding the inter-State relations in the OSCE area.

Azerbaijan commends Assembly's consistent position with regard to the earliest resolution of the protracted conflicts in the OSCE area on the basis of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the States concerned. Its reaffirmation of the obligations of the States not to recognize as lawful the situations resulting from use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of States and not to render any aid or assistance to maintain these situations is particularly important for achieving a breakthrough in settlement of the protracted conflicts. In this regard, we encourage the Parliamentary Assembly to closely follow and assess the implementation of its recommendations by the participating States.

In conclusion, I thank once again H.E. Mr. Ilkka Kanerva for his presence at the Permanent Council and wish him every success in his future endeavors.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.