



**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
1115th Special Meeting of the Permanent Council,
13 October 2016**

in response to report by ODIHR on HDIM

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of Azerbaijan warmly welcomes Director Link back to the Permanent Council and thanks him for comprehensive report on the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

We recall that the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting was designed to provide a venue for discussing the implementation of the OSCE commitments. Yet, it is of profound regret that over recent years HDIM has not achieved its original aim of providing a platform for dialogue. Instead, these meetings have been transformed into finger pointing exercise accompanied by ungrounded accusations, even attacking and insulting representatives of participating States, which is by no means helpful for restoring trust and confidence within the Organization and providing for a meaningful dialogue. The statements made by some delegations today are another fresh example of this negative trend.

We further regret that this year's Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, was once again misused for promotion and propagation of the illegal separatist regime established by Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. It has been internationally recognized that this regime is the product of illegal use of force against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan accompanied by heinous crimes, including ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

In this context, the participation of an NGO associated with and actively promoting the illegal separatist regime can by no means be in line with the principles that the OSCE stands for and therefore, diametrically contrary to the very aim of HDIM. The Republic of Azerbaijan feels compelled to remind that in accordance with CSCE Helsinki Document of 1992, non-governmental organizations, which "resort to the use of violence or publicly condone terrorism or the use of violence", shall not be allowed to participate in the OSCE events.

In light of the above-mentioned, we reiterate that admission of NGOs propagating separatism to HDIMs is unacceptable and must be ceased. Otherwise, this will further undermine the very credibility of this event.

As our delegation stated at the last Permanent Council Meeting on 4 October, it is in the interest of the OSCE to review the agenda and modalities, as well as procedures that are available now for the conduct of Human Dimensions events. The OSCE is an intergovernmental forum and it is in the hands of Governments to allow a meaningful dialogue. We should not be led by those forces who wish to misuse this structure. It is within this context that we underline the urgent need for the review of Human Dimension events and encourage the incoming OSCE Chairmanship to intensify the work to that end.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.