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**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
1130th Special Meeting of the Permanent Council,
27 January 2017**

*In response to the statement of the Chairperson of the Permanent Council
on extension of mandate of the OSCE Office in Yerevan*

Mr. Chairperson,

In response to your statement on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, I would like to state the followings:

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan also regrets that it has been impossible to find a consensus on the matter in line with the mandate of the OSCE Office in Yerevan. Throughout past years, activities of the Office have not been in line with its mandate. Our position in this regard was expressed at PC meeting on 31 December 2016 in response to the statement of the then-Chairperson of the Council, also at the PC meeting on 19 January 2017. The principled position reflected in these statements remains valid also in response to your statement just delivered.

We regret over inability to find a solution to the issue of violation of mandate by OSCE field presence in Armenia, due to which our Delegation is not in a position to agree for prolongation of its mandate.

As for the statement on intention of some participating States to assist Armenia with demining-related matters on bilateral basis, I wish to stress that it causes legitimate concern of the Azerbaijani side. We are not sure that this would be either helpful for a solution of the situation or contribute to stability in the region at all. As demining-related activities interfere with the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, I would like to remind that relevant UN Security Council resolutions demanded all member-states to refrain from any such interference. In view of such a demand of the UN Security Council, any bilateral assistance to Armenia in this area would be conceived as violation of UN Security Council resolutions and unfriendly step against Azerbaijan.

We also regret those procedural difficulties in finding a solution to the problem was elevated by one participating State to a crisis in the Organization through open blackmailing and hostage-taking, affecting work of other important field missions. Yet, we did not hear any open condemnation of such inadmissible behavior. This as a selective approach by the Chairmanship and the participating States, and we do not accept it.

Thank you.