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**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
1133<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council,  
09 February 2017**

*in response to presentations of the Chairs of the Security Committee, Economic and  
Environmental Committee and the Human Dimension Committee*

Mr. Chairperson,

Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan joins the previous speakers in thanking Ambassadors Kongstad, Sarybay and MacLeod for their comprehensive presentations on work plans of the three Committees for the year 2017.

The three committees, as subsidiary bodies of the Permanent Council, have important role to contribute to constructive and result-oriented discussions in the Council. Their potential for addressing issues of common concern in a participatory, interactive and transparent manner needs to be fully utilized. In this regard, we underline the importance of strengthened linkage between the Council agenda and its subsidiary bodies and encourage the Chairs of the three committees to take practical steps to ensure and promote complementarity in this regard.

Our Delegation provided its detailed comments on priorities and work plans in the three dimensions during discussions of respective committees. Herewith, I would like to highlight few issues of specific importance.

Protection of the rights of internally displaced persons, including their right to return in safety and dignity and their reintegration into places of origin without discrimination should be placed high on the OSCE agenda. The OSCE has developed extensive set of commitments in this regard and their implementation needs to be adequately discussed within the Organization. Special events held over past years demonstrated broad interest by overwhelming majority of participating States to use OSCE as a platform for addressing problems of IDPs. In this context, we expect that the Chairmanship and the Chair of the Human Dimension Committee will integrate this important issue into the human dimension package.

In the second dimension, we support the focus on good governance, greening the economy, fighting corruption, reducing environmental risks and promoting renewable energy sources. Trade facilitation, promotion of intra- and trans-regional transportation links, including through development of efficient multimodal transport corridors are important for sustainable economic connectivity and economic growth in participating States. The Hamburg Ministerial Council decision on good governance and connectivity defines the scope of very concept of connectivity, which should be followed in designing further activities in this field.

Azerbaijan, as initiator and active promoter of many regional and trans-regional transportation projects looks forward to realizing concrete initiatives in cooperation with Austrian Chairmanship and the Kazakh Chair of the Economic and Environmental Committee towards implementation of the said decision.

In the first Committee, we support priority on preventing and combating radicalization, with particular focus on the youth. Activities in this direction should identify and address root causes and triggers for increasing radicalization. Poor educational and economic records, accompanied with hate speech and discrimination against young people from different ethnic and religious background are among the key factors leading to radicalization. In this regard, we underline importance of cross-dimensional approach, promotion of education and inclusive societies as well as enhancing intercultural dialogue, religious tolerance and understanding among peoples.

In addition, we believe that OSCE activities with regard to combating the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters should move beyond the context of relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Financing of terrorism, tackling the root causes of terrorism, linkage between organized crime and money laundering need to be integrated into the agenda of the Security Committee.

In conclusion, we thank once again to Chairs of the three Committees for their presentations and wish them every success in chairing the work of respective committees.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson