



Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
812th Special Meeting of the Forum for Security Cooperation,
23 February 2016

in response to Minister of Defense of Georgia, H.E. Ms. Tinatin Khidasheli

Mme. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan warmly welcomes Her Excellency Ms. Tinatin Khidasheli, the Minister of Defense of Georgia to the Forum for Security Cooperation and thanks her for comprehensive presentation.

Azerbaijan and Georgia enjoy strategic partnership based on mutual interests and guided by shared objectives. These relations are one of the best examples of good-neighborly relations established in a very volatile OSCE region. Since regaining independence, partnership between our respective countries has brought dynamic economic development and much needed political stability to the South Caucasus region, and provided prosperity to our nations. This partnership, both in bilateral and multilateral frameworks, continues to play vital role in transforming our region to a platform of cooperation free of dividing lines and conflicts, and creating new realities for strengthening of political independence of our countries.

Military cooperation between Georgia and Azerbaijan plays an indispensable role in further augmenting Georgia-Azerbaijan strategic partnership. Effective implementation of dozens of bilateral documents covering virtually all aspects of military cooperation, as well as regular high-level contacts between our respective military structures is encouraging in this regard. It is especially worthwhile to underline that Georgia-Azerbaijan military relations are now expanding to multilateral formats and act as a driving force for enhancing regional peace and stability through pragmatic regional cooperation. In this context, we are pleased to note dynamism in trilateral format of Turkey-Georgia-Azerbaijan. The first meeting of Defense Ministers in Nakhchivan in 2014 gave new momentum to further enhancing military cooperation among Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey through several practical projects. Last year has been remarkable in terms of holding of first-ever joint military exercises of “Caucasian Eagle” in Turkey, and we are looking forward to continuing this practice further on.

Against this background, we regret that the unresolved conflicts in Georgia continue to undermine security and stability of the region. We reiterate our full support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of Georgia. We continue to believe that the protracted conflicts should be under close focus of the OSCE. It is within this context that we call on the OSCE participating States to support the efforts of the conflict affected countries, in this regard.

In conclusion, we thank once again Ms. Minister Khidasheli for her presence at the FSC and wish her every success in her future endeavors.

Thank you, Mme. Chairperson.