



**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
808th Meeting of the Forum for Security Cooperation,
20 January 2016**

*in response to Mr. Wim Geerts,
Director-General for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands*

Mme. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan welcomes Mr. Wim Geerts to the Forum for Security Cooperation and thanks him for comprehensive presentation on priorities of the Dutch Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Cooperation.

Azerbaijan attaches utmost importance to constructive dialogue and result-oriented discussions among all OSCE participating States to regularly review the implementation of the agreed CSBMs and explore the possible ways of their improvement. The FSC is an indispensable platform in this regard and we stand ready for constructive engagement within the Forum under the Dutch Chairmanship.

We are of the strong view that comprehensive analysis of the outstanding challenges for the implementation of the agreed CSBMs should be the first step to guide our discussions on their possible update and modernization.

In this context, we regret to reiterate that the so-called protracted conflicts continue to pose serious challenges for military transparency, predictability and stability in the OSCE area. Illegal military activities in the occupied territories, such as accumulation of undeclared, unaccounted and uncontrolled military equipment, including illegal transfer of weapons and ammunitions to these territories and ongoing military build-up therein, run contrary to the commitments regarding the participating States' conduct in military sphere.

It remains to be the harsh reality that confidence, transparency and predictability cannot be established while the armed forces of one participating State continues to be illegally deployed in the territories of the other. This reality should guide any attempt to update and modernize the CSBMs in order to avoid grey areas in the zone of application of the CSBMs.

Therefore, in our endeavor to bring the existing arms control and CSBMs regimes in line with the requirements of today's security environment, the FSC needs to comprehensively address the consequences of the conflicts.

In conclusion, we renew our gratitude for Mr. Wim Geerts for his presence at the Forum and wish every success to the incoming Dutch Chairmanship of the FSC.

Thank you, Mme. Chairperson.