



**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
1098th Meeting of the Permanent Council,
28 April 2016**

violations by the Republic of Armenia of the ceasefire agreement of April 5, 2016

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to draw attention of the Permanent Council to the comments made by the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan on violations by Armenia of the ceasefire agreement of April 5, 2016.

The Azerbaijani side shares the concerns expressed by the USA State Department and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation over increased tension along the line of contact between the armed forces of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

On the night from April 27 to 28, the Armenian armed forces intensively fired at the densely civilian populated areas, private and public properties, as well as Azerbaijani military positions in the districts of Aghdam and Terter with heavy artillery and large-calibre weapons.

In the result of irresponsible and deliberate targeting of civilian Azerbaijani population in gross violation of the norms of international humanitarian law, 2 civilian residents of the Aghdam district were killed, 6 others were seriously wounded. On the night of April 27 to 28, 20 civilian objects were inflicted serious damage. In total, serious damage has been inflicted upon public and private property in the civilian settlements along the line of contact since April 2, 2016.

Use of cluster munitions by Armenia is of particular concern, since their use against civilian population residing in the vicinity of the contact line serves only to inflict massive killings among the civilians and their unexploded parts remain to be source of threat for life and property of the civilians for a long time.

Resort by the Armenian armed forces to inhumane means with a view to committing massive killings of civilian Azerbaijani for yet another time is not a single isolated case, but represents an element of planned and systematic policy of terror that is being carried out by Armenia at the state level.

The claims by the official Yerevan on alleged damage inflicted upon civilians and civilian object in the Armenian-controlled side of the line of contact is totally false and groundless. As a consequence of ethnic cleansing policy carried out by Armenia against the Azerbaijani population in the occupied Azerbaijani territories, no civilian remained in that part of the line of contact.

Armenia does not abide itself by the ceasefire agreed between the Chiefs of the General Staff of Armenia and Azerbaijan on April 5, 2016, continues to aggravate the situation, deliberately targets civilian population and social objects, and refuses negotiations for the solution of the conflict. These provocative acts of the Armenian side must be resolutely condemned by the international community.

The Azerbaijani side has extensively informed and warned the international community on Armenia's preparations for renewed provocations.

The Azerbaijani side declares that the responsibility solely lies on Armenia for any counter-measures that the Azerbaijani armed forces are compelled to take against military positions of Armenia in order to ensure safety and security of the civilian Azerbaijani population residing along the line of contact.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.