



**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
1159th Meeting of the Permanent Council,
05 October 2017**

*in response to presentation of 2018 Unified
Budget Proposal by the Secretary-General*

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan joins previous speakers in thanking Secretary-General for his presentation of 2018 Unified Budget Proposal. We will carefully study the budget proposal and will convey our comments and suggestions in due course during the discussions of specific funds. At this stage, I would like to limit myself to some initial observations.

Under current tight financial circumstances, any increase in the budget should be reasonable and justified. We took note of the proposed increases in the budget for the Secretariat and Institutions, including establishment of new posts and expect detailed justifications.

We favor adoption of the budget in a timely manner. Towards that goal, we should reconsider the rationale of including into the budget of the programmatic proposals, which did not enjoy consensus in previous budget discussions. This will inevitably result in draining of our precious time away from considering other important issues within the budget and may result in avoidable prolongation of the budget process.

OSCE's activities related to the unresolved conflicts need to be streamlined in accordance with existing mandates and OSCE documents and decisions. OSCE structures and institutions should pay focused attention to the resolution of conflicts.

We take note of the intention of Secretariat and institutions for project-based collaboration with Armenia. In this regard, we would like to underline that any such initiative should be in full compliance with the principles of transparency and accountability without harming legitimate interests of any participating State. It remains to be our principled position that any project realized with Armenia should be confined to its internationally recognized territories, and should not touch any matter related to the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict and its settlement process. We expect the Secretariat and the institutions planning to engage in any type of activity with Armenia to make such a clear statement.

We reiterate that all commitments in each of the three dimensions of our comprehensive concept of security should be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same

emphasis. It is unfortunate to observe for yet another time lack of proper attention to the issue of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and protection of their rights in the budget proposal. We request all relevant fund managers to re-consider their proposal so that to reflect adequate attention to the issue of IDPs.

We welcome plans to foster connectivity in trade and transport among the participating States and to focus on good governance within the economic dimension. Good governance in private sector is as important as in public sector; in particular, as far as the role of private sector in fighting against money-laundering, financing terrorism, corruption, corporate human rights violations are concerned.

In conclusion, we wish every success to the Italian Delegation to the OSCE in timely adoption of the budget and stand ready for constructive engagement to this end.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.