



**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
1161st Meeting of the Permanent Council,
19 October 2017**

*in response to address by the Chairman of the Board
of the Eurasian Economic Commission*

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan thanks Mr. Sargsyan, the Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission, for his intervention. We would like to take this opportunity to stress the followings with regard to OSCE's relations with the Eurasian Economic Union.

We concur with the view that cooperation with other relevant international organizations and institutions is an integral element of OSCE's unique concept of comprehensive and cooperative security. Amidst increased complexity of threat and challenges facing the OSCE area, such a pragmatic cooperation can be instrumental in fostering synergies. In the meantime, activities of international organizations in the OSCE area may be of complementary nature without undermining OSCE's central role as the only pan-European security organization encompassing broad membership and in full observance of indivisibility of security and respect for legitimate interests of all OSCE participating States.

More importantly, we should not lose sight that ongoing violations of Helsinki Final Act Principles in inter-State relations lie at the root of current OSCE-wide security crisis. Therefore, it is imperative that OSCE's cooperation with other organizations should aim, before anything else, at restoring and promoting respect for the Helsinki Decalogue by these organizations and their individual member states, especially those related to respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, inviolability of the internationally recognized borders and inadmissibility of use of force for acquisition of territory.

In this context, we recall that as per the Platform for Co-operative Security of 1999, the framework document regulating OSCE's relationship with other international organizations and institutions, OSCE will work co-operatively with those organizations and institutions whose members individually and collectively, *inter alia*, adhere to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the OSCE principles and commitments as set out in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and other fundamental documents.

Azerbaijan enjoys excellent bilateral relations with all members of the Eurasian Economic Union, except for one country. Given ongoing failure by one member state of the Union to respect the above-mentioned principles, we are thankful for ensuring that its activities by no means question the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other OSCE participating States and

are strictly confined to the internationally recognized territories of its member states. We will continue to approach to OSCE's relations with the Eurasian Economic Commission with this understanding.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.