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**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
1161st Meeting of the Permanent Council,
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*in response to presentations of the Chairs of the Security Committee, Economic and
Environmental Committee and the Human Dimension Committee*

Mr. Chairperson,

Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan joins previous speakers in thanking Ambassadors Kongstad, Sarybay and MacLeod for their reports.

Regular reporting by the Committee Chairs is a valuable opportunity in terms of promotion of complementarity between the Council and its subsidiary bodies. We continue to believe that potential for addressing issues of common concern in a participatory, interactive and transparent manner needs to be fully utilized by all three committees. Their work needs to be better coordinated and further streamlined with a view to maximizing contribution to discussions at the Council. In this regard, holding of joint meetings of the Committees has significant value and we encourage the Chairs to continue this practice further on.

In the first Committee, preventing and combating radicalization has been in the focus of discussions in line with the Chairmanship priorities. We remain of the view that activities in this direction should identify and address root causes and triggers for increasing radicalization. In this regards, we underline importance of cross-dimensional approach, promotion of education and inclusive societies as well as enhancing intercultural dialogue, religious tolerance and understanding among peoples. We continue to support focus on combating terrorism in all its aspects, including financing of terrorism, tackling the root causes of terrorism, linkage between organized crime and money laundering.

We would like to underline the necessity of exploring the full potential of the second dimension for promotion of dialogue and cooperation in the OSCE area. In this regard, trade facilitation, promotion of intra- and trans-regional transportation links, including through development of efficient multimodal transport corridors are of special importance for sustainable economic connectivity and economic growth in participating States. We took note of valuable work done within the second Committee, which could serve a good basis for further steps next year. On our part, the Delegation of Azerbaijan remains ready to contribute to discussions on this important topic together with other interested Delegations.

With regard to the third dimension, it remains our firm position that human dimension related priorities and interests of each and every participating State should be equally addressed within the Committee, without neglecting some issues and focusing on others.

Protection of the rights of internally displaced persons, including their right to return in safety and dignity and their reintegration into places of origin without discrimination should be

placed high on the OSCE agenda. The OSCE has developed extensive set of commitments in this regard and their implementation needs to be adequately discussed within the Organization. We strongly encourage the Human Dimension Committee and the relevant institutions to be active in this regard.

Amidst serious threat stemming from rising intolerance, xenophobia and Islamophobia across the OSCE region, enhancing OSCE's efforts in this field becomes ever more important in line with the tasking of the Basel Ministerial Council. The Human Dimension Committee needs to place this issue high on its agenda ahead of the upcoming Ministerial Council in Vienna.

We consider the practice of submitting voluntary reports within the Committee as a valuable tool for sharing best practices of participating States in numerous issues pertinent to the agenda of the Committee. We will submit our voluntary report on increasing transparency and public trust at the upcoming meeting of the Committee and look forward to fruitful discussions.

In conclusion, we thank once again to Chairs of the three Committees for their presentations and wish them and their able teams every success in their future work.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson