



**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan**  
***825<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Forum for Security Cooperation,***  
***13 July 2016***

*Security Dialogue: Security Situation in Georgia*

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan warmly welcomes His Excellency Mr. David Dondua, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia and Ambassador Kestutis Jankauskas, Head of the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia to the Forum for Security Cooperation and thanks them for comprehensive statements.

Strategic partnership relations between Georgia and Azerbaijan is based on mutual interests and guided by shared objectives, and are one of the best examples of good-neighborly relations established in a very volatile OSCE region. Since regaining independence, partnership between our respective countries has brought dynamic economic development and much needed political stability to the South Caucasus region, and provided prosperity to our nations. This partnership, both in bilateral and multilateral frameworks, continues to play vital role in transforming our region to a platform of cooperation free of dividing lines and conflicts, and creating new realities for strengthening of political independence of our countries.

Military cooperation between Georgia and Azerbaijan plays an indispensable role in further augmenting Georgia-Azerbaijan strategic partnership. Effective implementation of dozens of bilateral documents covering virtually all aspects of military cooperation, as well as regular high-level contacts between our respective military structures is encouraging in this regard.

It is especially worthwhile to underline that Georgia-Azerbaijan relations are now expanding to multilateral formats and act as a driving force for enhancing regional peace and stability through pragmatic regional cooperation. In this context, we are pleased to note dynamism in trilateral format of Turkey-Georgia-Azerbaijan. The first meeting of Defense Ministers in Nakhchivan in 2014 gave new momentum to further enhancing military cooperation among Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey through several practical projects, in particular holding of first-ever joint military exercises of “Caucasian Eagle” last year. The latest meeting of the three ministers in May in Azerbaijan was also instrumental in further galvanizing partnership in all areas of interest.

Against this background, we regret that the unresolved conflicts in Georgia continue to undermine

security and stability of the region. We reiterate our full support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of Georgia. We continue to believe that the protracted conflicts should be under close focus of the OSCE. It is within this context that we call on the OSCE participating States to support the efforts of the conflict affected countries, in this regard.

In conclusion, we thank once again today's distinguished guest speakers and wish them every success in their future endeavors.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.