



Hügelgasse 2, A-1130, Wien | Tel.: + 43 (1) 403 13 22 | Fax: + 43 (1) 403 13 23 | E-mail: vienna@mission.mfa.gov.az

**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
1134th Meeting of the Permanent Council,
16 February 2017**

on illegal “referendum” in the South Ossetia region of Georgia

Mr. Chairperson,

With regard to reports on planned so-called “referendum” in Georgia’s South Ossetia region, we reiterate Azerbaijan’s support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders.

The so-called “referendum”, which will be held in clear violation of the Constitution of Georgia and under continued displacement of large number of inhabitants of the region, cannot produce any legal effect whatsoever. This unlawful act runs contrary to the principles and procedures for international standardization of geographic names established within the United Nations, which recognize that standardization of geographical names is based on every country exercising its prerogative for standardizing its own geographical names.

Azerbaijan supports efforts to find sustainable political solution to the conflict in Georgia within the agreed international format.

Thank you.