AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASININ
ATƏT YANINDA
DAİMİ NÜMAYƏNDƏLİYİ

PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
TO THE OSCE

Hügelgasse 2, A-1130 Vienna 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
1096th Meeting of the Permanent Council,
14th April 2016

in response to the ODIHR Director

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of Azerbaijan would like to join previous speakers in welcoming Mr. Michael Link, Director of ODIHR to the Permanent Council and thank him for the report.

Azerbaijan values work and recognizes importance of the OSCE institutions established by participating States. These institutions while operating strictly in line with the provided mandates can contribute to the implementation of the OSCE commitments across all three dimensions and facilitate cooperation among OSCE participating States with the aim to strengthen the security in the OSCE area.

We continue to build cooperative relations with all OSCE institutions, including ODIHR on the basis of dialogue, mutual respect and common interest. ODIHR, as of the main OSCE bodies in charge of assisting in implementation of human dimension related commitments, should respect the principles of impartiality and professionalism in all its activities as prescribed by the mandate.

We welcome the intention of ODIHR to continue constructive engagement with the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in particular in the area of tolerance and non-discrimination. Azerbaijan looks forward for the joint CiO ODIHR event on *Tolerance and Inter-religious dialogue* planned to be held in Baku in September this year and expresses its readiness to support ODIHR in this regard.

In conclusion, we wish Director Link and his team every success in their future endeavors.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.