



**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
1100<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council,  
12 May 2016**

*in response to Secretary-General's presentation of 2017 Programme Outline*

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan thanks Secretary General for his comprehensive presentation on Programme Outline for 2017. Our delegation will provide its detailed comments and substantive analysis during discussions of specific funds. Herewith we would like to limit ourselves to initial remarks on some of the Funds.

First of all, we are of strong view that the OSCE should streamline its efforts in dealing with threats and challenges to security and stability in its region. Protracted conflicts remain to be the major threat in the OSCE area posing serious challenges in all three dimensions. It is within this context that we strongly encourage the OSCE Secretariat, current and future chairmanships, as well as executive structures to pay due attention to tackling challenges posed by the conflicts and re-double their efforts aimed at elimination of harsh consequences of conflicts in all three dimensions.

We take note that the substantive support to efforts of facilitation of the resolution of conflicts will remain priority for the CPC. We recall that the OSCE is the only internationally mandated organization for the solution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. Therefore, the Organization should keep the conflict high on its agenda through facilitating comprehensive discussions on various aspects of the conflict and providing effective guidance to the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group and its co-chairmen. In this context, we would appreciate to hear more on the plans of the CPC with regard to resolution of the conflicts in the OSCE area.

We regret to observe lack of proper attention to the issue of IDPs and refugees in OSCE activities. In light of existing wide-range commitments related to IDPs and refugees, the OSCE and its relevant executive structures should allocate adequate resources to activities aimed at finding solution to problems of this vulnerable group. We strongly encourage current and future chairmanships, CPC, as well as relevant executive structures to take necessary measures within their mandate to rectify this gap.

With regard to executive institutions, we will continue to support activities conducted within their agreed mandate and aimed at assisting participating States in implementation of their OSCE commitments. Our joint endorsement of their respective budgets is a sign of collective ownership over their activities and in this context, thorough analysis of fulfillment of their mandates and level of attainment of expressed objectives is of utmost importance for consideration respective budget proposals.

As for OSCE field missions, we would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our principal position that field missions can fulfill their role as a common asset of all 57 OSCE participating States, only if

they act in full compliance with the OSCE principles, commitments and decisions, and by no means harm the legitimate interests of the participating States.

In this context, peculiarities of host countries, in particular their track record in observing basic principles of the Helsinki Final Act, such as respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of states should be taken into account while crafting mandates of respective field missions and designing their programmatic activities. We stress the necessity for the OSCE, in particular the Chairmanship and the CPC to keep an effective oversight of the activities of the OSCE Office in Yerevan with a view to ensuring that assistance provided to Armenia through the field mission will in no circumstances be utilized in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan or serve to consolidation of the occupation of the Azerbaijani territories by Armenia. Our support to the activities of this field mission will be dependent on the progress in putting proper guarantees in place to prevent any misuse of assistance provided or capacity acquired by the host country against legitimate security interests of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Enhanced transparency and accountability in the activities of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, in particular in the first dimension is of equal importance in this regard.

In conclusion, we once again thank distinguished Secretary General for his report and reiterate our readiness for active and constructive engagement in deliberations on PPBR and PO of specific OSCE funds.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson