



**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
1116th Meeting of the Permanent Council,
27 October 2016**

In response to the President of the OSCE PA

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan warmly welcomes Ms. Christine Muttonen, the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, to the Permanent Council and thanks her for insightful intervention. Taking this opportunity, we renew our congratulations on her election as the President of the Parliamentary Assembly and wish her every success in discharging functions in this very important post.

Mme. President, we share your opinion that the parliamentary dimension of the OSCE has a great potential to help promoting dialogue and cooperation within the OSCE area. Its contribution is especially needed in tackling threats and challenges to security and stability in our shared region, such as conflicts, terrorism, violent extremism, xenophobia, islamophobia and other forms of intolerance. In this regard, strengthening cooperation and coordination mechanisms between the Assembly and the governmental part of the Organization is important. This should be done with full respect for established working methods and procedures and aim at finding synergies in dealing with issues of common concern.

We are pleased that Annual Session held in Tbilisi provided good opportunity for open exchange of views among parliamentarians on most pressing issues concerning pan-European security. The protracted conflicts were in the focus of discussions as the imminent threat to security and stability of entire OSCE region. The parliamentarians reaffirmed enduring validity of the Helsinki Final Act and the Principles guiding inter-state relations enshrined therein. We commend principled position of the Assembly with regard to settlement of the protracted conflicts in the OSCE area on the basis of full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the States involved.

Against this background, some parliamentarians conduct unauthorized visits to the occupied territories and try to promote and propogate illegal separatist regime established therein. We expect the Assembly to seriously review such cases and elaborate recomendations to prevent their re-occurrence in future.

The Assembly on numerous occasions called for stronger political will to address the problems of refugees and IDPs and reaffirmed their inalienable right to return to their homes in safety and dignity. In light with its expressed position on the matter, we encourage the Assembly to pay closer attention to the

issue of forced displacement in the OSCE area and make its suggestions for executive structures of the Organization.

Illegal economic and other activities in the occupied territories with involvement of legal and natural persons of third countries represent another serious challenge for efforts for finding soonest solution to the conflict. Direct or indirect support for such activities runs contrary to participating States' commitments, including those adopted within the OSCE framework. In this context, we expect the Assembly to explore the role of parliamentarians in prevention and reversion of such activities in the territories that are beyond legitimate control of participating States.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that Azerbaijan highly values the role of the Parliamentary Assembly in exploring ways for meaningful dialogue within the OSCE and looks forward to productive cooperation with its newly elected leadership. We once again thank Ms. President for her presence at the Permanent Council and wish her every success in her future endeavors.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.