



**Statement by the Delegation of Azerbaijan
Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Working Session 13: Fundamental
Freedoms I (freedom of movement)
Warsaw, 27 September 2016
As delivered by Fidan Mahmudova
Embassy of Azerbaijan to Poland**

Right of reply

In reply to the Armenian delegation statement which was full of groundless accusations against my country, we wish to state that Armenia bears the responsibility for unleashing the war against Azerbaijan, by using force occupied twenty percent of Azerbaijan's territories and carried out ethnic cleansing and committing other atrocious crimes.

With regard to the 8-year old boy, who was travelling to Baku, we call on the Armenian delegate to end disseminating inaccurate information, as Luka was accompanied by his mother who did not possess travel permission for the child from his father which is required for individuals travelling under the age of 18 (the permission of both parents is required).

Furthermore, Armenians and people of Armenian origin do not face any obstacles entering Azerbaijan. Thus, Armenian delegation participated in the First European Games held in Baku last year. In their interview Armenian sportsmen expressed their satisfaction with the participation. If there were any problems, they would have never participated in the next such kind of events. We also wish to state that last year the Armenian delegation took part in the chess competition which also was held in Baku in 2015. And finally, we'd like to remind the Armenian delegation that the Azerbaijani President personally awarded the sportsman of Armenian origin during 1st European Games in 2015 who won the second prize. However, the Armenian delegation firstly agreed but later refused to take part in the 42nd Chess Olympiad which was held in Baku from in September 2016.

Ultimately, we would like to recall that in his written statement Mr. Vahan Martirosian, Armenian human rights activist who, with his family, escaped from Armenia and sought a refuge in Azerbaijan, he provides best answer to allegations of the Armenian delegation.

With regard to participation of certain journalists in the HDIM, we have to stress the following: Ms. Kh. Ismayilova's imprisonment was substituted with release on probation by the decision of the competent court of Azerbaijan that reviewed her case. According to common legal practice, this is followed by certain conditions set forth by court including travel ban. Therefore, we are not going to comment on the decision of the court.