



Closing Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan 23rd Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE

Hamburg, 9 December 2016

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan thanks to the German Chairmanship for excellent organization of the meeting of the Ministerial Council and wishes every success to the incoming Austrian Chairmanship.

The discussions we held for the last two days demonstrated that unresolved armed conflicts that resulted in large-scale displacement of people are among the most acute problems requiring urgent actions by the OSCE participating States. It is the view of overwhelming majority that internal displacement, which occurred due to violations of OSCE principles and commitments, shall be placed high on OSCE agenda.

The majority of the participating States stressed the need to address the root causes of internal displacement with a view to facilitating return of IDPs, in safety and dignity and their reintegration into places of origin without discrimination, and in accordance with the relevant OSCE commitments.

I regret that lack of consensus due to position of one delegation prevented proper reflection of protection of the rights of IDPs in the decision adopted by the Ministerial Council. In this regard, the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan along with other participating States will continue to use the OSCE platform for elaborating a comprehensive response addressing the protection of the rights of internally displaced persons.

We urge the participating State, which prevents consideration of the issue of protection of the rights of IDPs, to become a part of solution of these problems, rather than remaining to be a part of the problem.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.