



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN AZERBAIJAN

to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 19 August 2015

Mr Chairman,

We subscribe fully to the statement made by Luxemburg on behalf of the European Union. Let me in addition draw the Permanent Council's attention to a statement issued by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Monday this week. The statement stresses Norway's deep concern over the sentencing of prominent human rights activists Leyla and Arif Yunus. The legal process against them had serious flaws.

Once again, we urgently call on Azerbaijan to abide by its commitments to the rule of law, fair trial standards and due process, and to respect international human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The apparent deterioration of Leyla and Arif Yunus's health in pre-trial detention is extremely worrying. We join the calls on Azerbaijani authorities to release them immediately and provide adequate medical care.

Thank you, Mr Chairman