



**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**

It is well known that Armenia has unleashed war against Azerbaijan, by using force occupied twenty percent of Azerbaijan's territories and carried out ethnic cleansing, and forcibly expelled about one million of Azerbaijanis from their native lands making them refugees and IDPs. Thus, Armenia violates their basic human rights, including right of movement depriving them the right to live on the lands they were born.

The international community has consistently deplored, in the strongest terms, the use of military force against Azerbaijan and the resulting occupation of its territories. The resolutions of UN Security Council of 1993 as well as the General Assembly of 2008 reaffirmed the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and recognized Nagorno Karabakh region as part of Azerbaijan.

It is very surprising to see the Armenian to blame Azerbaijan – the victim of aggression for the violation of the freedom of movement, whereas Armenia itself purged not only its own territory, but also the occupied territories of all native Azerbaijanis.

In its attempts to promote the illegal separatist entity established by Armenia on the occupied territories of Azerbaijan at the international level, Armenia uses each and every possibility to mislead the citizens of the foreign countries, in particular the staff and representatives of international organizations, as well as government officials, parliamentarians and media, to visit the occupied Azerbaijani territories without prior permission of relevant Azerbaijani authorities.

The Government of Azerbaijan has repeatedly stated in this regard that any visits by third-country nationals to the occupied Nagorno Karabakh region and surrounding territories of Azerbaijan, without prior authorization of Azerbaijan and their unsanctioned contacts with the separatist regime are unacceptable and unlawful ab initio.

We would like to reiterate that unauthorized illegal visits to the Nagorno Karabakh region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan run contrary to the norms and principles of the international law and are directed against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan, on numerous occasions, through appropriate channels, has declared that foreign nationals who illegally visit the occupied territories will be denied entry to Azerbaijan. This should be seen as a legitimate deterrence measure taken by Azerbaijan in response to the violation of its state borders and not as the violation of freedom of movement.

Against this backdrop, we call on the citizens of OSCE Participating States to refrain from travelling to the occupied by Armenia territories of Azerbaijan, including Nagorno Karabakh and seven adjacent districts, without permission of the relevant authorities of Azerbaijan.