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**Statement
at the 802nd (Special) meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
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ENGLISH only

*Response to UN Secretary General
As for delivery by Ambassador Fuad Ismayilov*

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to join the previous speakers in welcoming the Secretary-General of the United Nations H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-Moon to the Permanent Council.

We would like to thank His Excellency for his comprehensive statement and express our profound respect and appreciation for his leadership in mobilizing the international community to make our world a better place to live.

Mr. Secretary-General,

We all recognize that the security of every State in the world can be better promoted and ensured with a multilateral security system. This paradigm was a principal reason behind creation of the collective security system with the United Nations Organization at its core.

At the same time, it is well known that the effectiveness of this system will depend on whether States follow the norms and principles of international law and use them as a guiding tool for shaping their foreign and security policies.

Unfortunately, unlawful use of force is still not removed from the context of international relations. Military aggression and foreign occupation involving the most serious international crimes are only a few vivid examples from our recent history of the bitter consequences of noncompliance by individual States with the norms and principles of international law.

The most vivid example of misconduct of the norms and principles of international law is almost two decades long and still unresolved Armenian-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict which also stands out as a major threat to international and regional peace and security.

The United Nations Security Council in its four resolutions on the conflict reaffirmed the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory of the other state. It has also recognized

Nagorno-Karabakh as a part of Azerbaijan and called for immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The United Nations General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/62/243 of 14 March, 2008, entitled "The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan", expressed respect and support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders.

The approach of the United Nations Security Council and the General Assembly reflected in the above-mentioned resolutions is fully consistent with the position of Azerbaijan, which from the beginning advocated for a step-by-step approach to the conflict settlement as the only viable option.

Azerbaijan firmly believes that the way to ensure international peace and security lies in the full and unconditional implementation of the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations and there is also the need for strengthening the mechanisms of their realization both on global and regional levels.

In our view the OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, should make its own contribution to that end.

In this regard, we recall the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 in which the OSCE Participating States, *inter alia*, reaffirmed their "full and active support for the United Nations and for the enhancement of its role and effectiveness in strengthening international peace, security and justice, and in promoting the solution of international problems".

In conclusion, we thank you, Your Excellency, for addressing this meeting of the Permanent Council today and wish you every success in your worldwide activity.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.