



Statement
On large-scale military exercise held in Azerbaijan

FSC.DEL/53/18
14 March 2018

**delivered at the 879th meeting of the
Forum for Security Co-operation**

ENGLISH only

14 March 2018

Mr. Chairperson,

On March 9 the Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan published in its official website information regarding the large scale military exercise with the participation of various military branches, formations and military units of Azerbaijani Army which started on March 12 and will last until March 17.

We would like to draw the attention of the Forum that according to the same source the exercise involves up to 25,000 military personnel, up to 250 tanks and other armored vehicles, up to 1000 missile and artillery systems of different caliber, including multiple launch rocket systems and mortars, up to 50 army and front-line aviation for various purposes.

In accordance with the para 40.1.1 of Chapter V (**V. Prior Notification of Certain Military Activities (CMA)**) of the Vienna Document 11, this military activity is a subject to notification at least 42 days before, since the troops and artillery weapons involved in the exercise exceed the threshold.

Mr. Chairperson,

Just two weeks ago at the one of the most important events in political security dimension, namely Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting we attached importance to the prior notification of large scale military activities. As a part of military posturing the failure of notification of large scale military exercise has been also very much present in discussion upheld within structured dialogue.

Similarly, it was the case last year with four other large-scale military exercises which were all exceeding the set threshold of the VD Chapter V and none of them was notified, followed by refusal of Azerbaijani side to provide any explanation.

Under these circumstances the intentional failure of Azerbaijan to notify a military activity, which is subject to notification indicates disregard and defiance towards its own commitments and accepted state behavior in the OSCE and negatively affects security and stability of the region.

In conclusion, I would like to add that the reaction of other participating states with regard to the intentional and uncorrected violation of Vienna Document particularly Chapter V will be an important point of reference for our delegation in determining our stance towards proposals aimed at improving application of Vienna Document.

Thank you.