



Hügelgasse 2, A-1130 Vienna Tel: +43 (1) 403 13 22 Fax: +43 (1) 403 13 23 E-mail: [vienna@mission.mfa.gov.az](mailto:vienna@mission.mfa.gov.az)

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**Statement by the Delegation of Azerbaijan  
at the 921<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council  
19 July, 2012**

ENGLISH only

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the delegations of Cyprus (EU), France and Turkey for their statements on so called illegal presidential elections in the occupied Daglygh Garabagh (Nagorno Karabakh) region of Azerbaijan.

Today statements are clear testimony that the international community rejects the attempts of Armenia to claim legitimacy for illegal elections.

We once again use this opportunity to inform the OSCE participating States that so called presidential elections are organized in order to camouflage the policy of Armenia aimed at consolidating the status-quo in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and promoting the results of ethnic cleansing on these territories.

It is clear that the creation of a monoethnic culture in the seized Azerbaijani lands, both by expelling the Azerbaijani population and by refusing to permit its return, constitutes an integral part of Armenia's annexationist policy.

Holding any voting process, in absence of the original Azerbaijani population of the Daglygh Garabagh region and without necessary authorization of respective structures of the Republic of Azerbaijan, gravely violates the relevant provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the norms and principles of international law, and therefore can not have any legal effect whatsoever.

Holding legitimate elections will be possible after withdrawal of the Armenian occupying forces, normalization of life in the region, return of expelled Azerbaijani population and creation of necessary conditions for restoration of the dialogue and cooperation between the Armenian and Azerbaijani communities of Daglygh Garabagh region of Azerbaijan.

We call again upon the Armenian side instead of its destructive illegal steps, which does not have any prospects, to withdraw its armed forces from the Azerbaijani territories, thus creating conditions for peace, security and development of the entire region.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman