



**Chairmanship: Sweden**

**1305th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Date: Thursday, 11 March 2021 (via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.

Suspended: 12.40 p.m.

Resumed: 3 p.m.

Closed: 6 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador U. Funered  
Ambassador T. Lorentzson

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 1: REPORT BY THE CO-ORDINATOR OF OSCE  
ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Chairperson, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (SEC.GAL/34/21 OSCE+), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/292/21), Portugal-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/342/21), Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/294/21 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/293/21 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/291/21), Switzerland (PC.DEL/321/21 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Armenia (PC.DEL/309/21), Georgia (PC.DEL/297/21 OSCE+), Belarus (PC.DEL/300/21 OSCE+), Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/305/21 OSCE+), Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine (PC.DEL/350/21), Bosnia and Herzegovina (also on behalf of Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia) (PC.DEL/295/21 OSCE+), Uzbekistan, Liechtenstein (PC.DEL/290/21 OSCE+), Tajikistan

Agenda item 2: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Chairperson (also on behalf of Albania and Poland), Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/298/21), Portugal-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/343/21), Canada (PC.DEL/304/21 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/325/21 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/296/21), Switzerland (PC.DEL/322/21 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Armenia (PC.DEL/311/21), Belarus (PC.DEL/301/21 OSCE+), Latvia (also on behalf of Andorra, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Mongolia, Norway, Portugal-European Union, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden and the United States of America) (Annex 1), Belgium (PC.DEL/331/21), Norway (PC.DEL/299/21), Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/314/21 OSCE+)

Agenda item 3: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Chairperson

- (a) *Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea*: Ukraine (PC.DEL/307/21), United Kingdom, Portugal-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/345/21), Canada (PC.DEL/324/21 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/327/21 OSCE+), United States of America (PC.DEL/306/21), Switzerland (PC.DEL/323/21 OSCE+)
- (b) *Situation in Ukraine and the need to implement the Minsk agreements*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/312/21), Ukraine, Portugal-European Union
- (c) *The aggression of Azerbaijan against Artsakh and Armenia with the direct involvement of Turkey and foreign terrorist fighters*: Armenia (Annex 2)
- (d) *Improving scientific and technological co-operation as response to the spread of COVID-19*: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/313/21), Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan (Annex 3), Norway (also on behalf of Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland) (PC.DEL/329/21), Belarus (PC.DEL/318/21 OSCE+), Serbia (PC.DEL/319/21 OSCE+), Uzbekistan, Portugal-European Union, United States of America (PC.DEL/308/21), Kazakhstan, Armenia, Tajikistan, United Kingdom
- (e) *On recent developments in Belarus*: Portugal-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein,

members of the European Economic Area, in alignment) (PC.DEL/346/21), United Kingdom, United States of America (PC.DEL/310/21), Norway (PC.DEL/328/21), Canada, Belarus (PC.DEL/317/21 OSCE+)

Agenda item 4:           REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE  
                                  CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

- (a)   *Briefing by the Chairperson-in-Office to the United Nations Security Council, held via video teleconference on 10 March 2021: Chairperson*
- (b)   *Visit of the Chairperson-in-Office to Armenia and Azerbaijan, to take place on 15 and 16 March 2021: Chairperson*
- (c)   *Meeting of the Chairperson-in-Office with the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, held via video teleconference on 10 March 2021: Chairperson*
- (d)   *Meeting of the Chairperson-in-Office with the Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, held in Stockholm on 9 March 2021: Chairperson*
- (e)   *Briefing on the monthly priorities of the Swedish OSCE Chairmanship: Chairperson*
- (f)   *Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Committee, held via video teleconference on 10 March 2021: Chairperson*
- (g)   *First Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting of 2021 (on media freedom and gender equality), held via video teleconference on 8 and 9 March 2021: Chairperson*
- (h)   *Appointment of the Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat: Chairperson*
- (i)   *Reposting of a call for nominations for the position of Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro: Chairperson*

Agenda item 5:           REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

- (a)   *Update on the COVID-19 situation across the OSCE executive structures: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/36/21 OSCE+)*
- (b)   *Loss of a long-range unmanned aerial vehicle suffered by the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine on 7 March 2021: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/36/21 OSCE+)*
- (c)   *OSCE Secretariat activities related to advancing the participation of women in the security sector: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/36/21 OSCE+)*

- (d) *Expert session on cyber/ICT security, organized by the OSCE Secretariat's Transnational Threats Department, held via video teleconference on 4 March 2021: Secretary General (SEC.GAL/36/21 OSCE+)*

Agenda item 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

*Review of implementation of trilateral statement of 10 November 2020 signed by Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia: Azerbaijan (Annex 4), Turkey (Annex 5), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/320/21 OSCE+)*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 18 March 2021, at 10 a.m., via video teleconference



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/1305  
11 March 2021  
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

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**1305th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1305, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF LATVIA (ALSO ON BEHALF OF  
ANDORRA, BULGARIA, CANADA, CYPRUS, FINLAND, FRANCE,  
GEORGIA, GERMANY, LIECHTENSTEIN, LITHUANIA, MALTA,  
MONGOLIA, NORWAY, PORTUGAL-EUROPEAN UNION,  
ROMANIA, SAN MARINO, SERBIA, SLOVENIA, SWEDEN  
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)**

Madam Chairperson,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the women ambassadors and representatives to the OSCE of Andorra, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, the European Union, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Mongolia, Norway, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, the United States of America and on behalf of my own country Latvia.

We would like to commend the Swedish Chairmanship for including International Women's Day on the agenda of today's meeting and for prioritizing the topic of gender equality throughout the Chairmanship. It is important to reaffirm that promoting gender equality is a commitment agreed to by all participating States.

UN Women has announced that the overall theme of International Women's Day this year is "Women in leadership". What could be a more suitable topic for this year, as the leadership of the OSCE for the first time in its 45-year-long history is in the hands of women: the Chairperson-in-Office, the Secretary General, the Chairperson of the Permanent Council, the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre are all women.

We support conflict resolution as a priority of the Swedish Chairmanship. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the decision on the conflict cycle. Women's participation is crucial at all stages and at all levels of conflict prevention, peace negotiations and peacebuilding processes. Research has shown that women's participation in peace processes is vital for sustainable peace and long-term solutions. Peace agreements should also include provisions on sexual and gender-based violence.

The OSCE launched a useful toolkit for the inclusion of women in peace processes in 2019, which provides concrete recommendations for increasing women's direct and meaningful participation at the negotiation table. A concrete means to strengthen women as agents for peace is working through Women Mediators' Networks. At the OSCE, we can step up our efforts to connect women's networks from various parts of the OSCE area with each other, and to strengthen links to civil society.

A quarter of a century after the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Generation Equality Forum will take stock of the progress made up to now. Unfortunately, we know that the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected women. The pandemic has exacerbated many problems, such as violence against women and economic inequalities. At the OSCE, we have made progress on gender equality, but more remains to be done. We commend Secretary General Helga Schmid's commitment to address the remaining challenges across the OSCE executive structures. The participating States should do their share across the OSCE area.

Now is the time to deliver on our commitments. We have to fight for equality each and every day. Every day is women's day.

Dear colleagues,

The MenEngage Network aligns itself with this statement. The statement stays open for other alignments that we warmly welcome. The final version of the statement will be distributed later on.

Madam Chairperson, I would kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the day.



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**1305th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1305, Agenda item 3(c)

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Madam Chairperson,

Four months ago, on 9 November, the signing of a trilateral statement on ceasefire brought an end to the aggression of Azerbaijan, with the direct involvement of Turkey and foreign terrorist fighters, against Artsakh and its people.

The trilateral statement was seen by many as a window of opportunity for embarking on the difficult, indeed Herculean, task of building peace and security in the region. Unfortunately, four months later the still unresolved issue of Armenian prisoners of war and other detainees, including civilians, held by Azerbaijan, in clear violation of paragraph 8 of the trilateral statement, which stipulates that all prisoners of war and other detained persons shall be released immediately after the cessation of hostilities, attests to the failure and lack of will of the Azerbaijani authorities to engage in good faith in the peace process.

In defiance of its own signature and international humanitarian law, Azerbaijan not only refuses to release the Armenian prisoners of war and civilian hostages, including women, but also refuses to provide, through the International Committee of the Red Cross, a complete list of persons of Armenian origin held by Azerbaijan. According to the estimates of Armenian human rights activists, the number of these persons very likely goes into the hundreds.

In a situation in which anti-Armenian hatred is promoted and supported at the State level, the Armenian prisoners of war and civilians held in Azerbaijani captivity face imminent and serious threats to life and limb.

I would like to recall that Armenia, in line with its commitments under the 9 November trilateral statement, ensured the release of all Azerbaijani prisoners of war and civilians held by the Armenian sides on the understanding that Azerbaijan would reciprocate and would release all Armenian prisoners of war and other detainees on the basis of the principle of “all for all”. This, however, did not happen, and we do hope that our international partners, when addressing or speaking about the issue of prisoners of war, will refrain from generalized statements and appeals to both sides.

Madam Chairperson,

We stated earlier that in order to start changing the paradigm of relations in the South Caucasus from confrontation to peace, we need to see real and tangible changes in the foreign policy and military agendas and trajectories of both Azerbaijan and Turkey.

Currently, the Azerbaijani authorities are trying to project an image of Azerbaijan as a peace-loving nation for consumption by the international community. However, in the light of the belligerent and aggressive anti-Armenian rhetoric used by the Azerbaijani President in his public statements, these attempts are nothing more than empty sounds aimed at misleading and lulling the international community into believing the stories about long-awaited peace and stability in the region. We understand that it may be music to the ears of some eager listeners and to others a convenient illusion. In reality, however, nothing is further from the truth than the fictitious narrative promoted by Azerbaijani propaganda, which continues to portray Armenia and the Armenian people as a collective enemy, and to use anti-Armenian hatred as a handy tool to this end. To substantiate this assessment, I wish to quote statements made by the President of Azerbaijan on 5 March during a congress of the ruling New Azerbaijan Party. In particular, I quote: “The younger generation has grown up with ... hatred for the enemy, and this young generation has liberated our lands from the invaders.” And he continued: “We isolated it [Armenia] from regional projects, from oil and gas projects, ruined their economy ... We exposed Armenia as an ambivalent and unstable country with no future.”

Furthermore, on that occasion, President Aliyev repeatedly made territorial claims against Armenia, in particular with regard to the Syunik province of Armenia, calling it “historical Azerbaijani lands” and promising to force Armenia to open a so-called “corridor” to Nakhijevan.

Our reading of the situation is further supported by Azerbaijan’s increasingly frequent military exercises, including joint ones with Turkey. Another unnotified exercise, the third since the end of hostilities, has been announced to take place from 15 to 18 March 2021.

Today, the statements and, what is more important, the actions of the Azerbaijani and Turkish authorities mirror their statements and actions right before the September war of aggression against Artsakh and its people. We view this as a direct threat to Armenia, and we would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to these early warning signals as indications of a possible intention of Azerbaijan and Turkey to resume military aggression against Armenia and Artsakh. In this context, we believe that in order to maintain the OSCE’s credibility and standing as a security organization and regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, it must not hold back from reacting to this kind of manifestation. The OSCE and its institutions, the executive structures and mechanisms, which have conflict-related mandates, must stop simply standing by and must start fulfilling their mandated tasks.

Madam Chairperson,

Azerbaijan’s aggression against Artsakh and its people in September was accompanied by the relocation of foreign terrorist fighters to the OSCE area of responsibility. The recruitment and transfer of foreign terrorist fighters by Turkey has been acknowledged



by governments and law enforcement agencies of several countries and continues to be widely reported and documented by international media and independent observers on the ground. These facts were also confirmed by the testimonies of the terrorists captured by the Artsakh Defence Army. The United Nations Working Group on the use of mercenaries has referred to “widespread reports that the Government of Azerbaijan, with Turkey’s assistance, relied on Syrian fighters to shore-up and sustain its military operations in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone, including on the frontline”.

We have raised this issue on several occasions, both during and after the war, informing the Permanent Council of the details of this large-scale recruitment scheme, which brought up to 4,000 foreign terrorist fighters and jihadists into the conflict zone. We also drew the attention of the participating States to reports about Azerbaijani-Turkish plans to resettle the families of foreign terrorist fighters in the territories of Artsakh that are currently under the occupation of Azerbaijan.

This very real and imminent threat of the spread of terrorism to the OSCE area should have triggered action from the relevant OSCE mechanisms, at least in the form of ad hoc reports or assessments of the situation. Unfortunately, this did not happen. Let me be clear, the relevance of this organization and its executive structures depends largely on their ability, readiness and willingness to deliver on their mandates.

We believe that the threat posed by these unaccounted-for foreign terrorist fighters still exists and we call on the participating States to take all necessary measures, both at the bilateral and multilateral levels, to counter the spread of terrorism and to hold these criminals and their masterminds accountable.

Madam Chairperson,

I would like to once again raise the issue of the destruction by the Azerbaijani occupation troops of the Armenian cultural and religious heritage in the territories currently under the control of Azerbaijan, which continues unabated. In addition to Armenian churches, places of worship and cemeteries, now even monuments to the heroes of the Great Patriotic War are being destroyed. And these are not isolated cases, as is shown by the regularity with which they are repeated.

Thus, a monument to a twofold Hero of the Soviet Union, the fighter pilot Nelson Stepanyan, one of the defenders of Leningrad, was recently blown up in Shushi, which is currently under Azerbaijan’s occupation. A few days ago, a monument to Ivan Tevosyan, a Soviet Minister, was destroyed, again in Shushi. It is worth mentioning that Ivan Tevosyan was one of those who organized the evacuation of military factories to beyond the Urals and was responsible for the supply of steel for the entire defence industry of the Soviet Union during the war. Monuments to Marshals Baghramyan and Babadjanyan, General Sardarov, Admiral Isakov and Air Marshal Khanferyants (Khudyakov) all of whom played important parts in the victory over Nazism have been destroyed.

In this context, we welcome the fact that in response to a written inquiry, European Union High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell, on behalf of the European Commission, has deplored the destruction of religious and historic monuments in Nagorno-Karabakh, in particular the damage caused to Shushi’s Ghazanchetsots Cathedral by

the Azerbaijani armed forces and has underlined the importance of preserving and restoring the cultural and religious heritage. The European Commission also welcomed the mission initiated by UNESCO to the regions of Artsakh, whose access to the region continues to be blocked by Azerbaijan.

Madam Chairperson,

The humanitarian situation in which the people of Artsakh have found themselves as a result of Azerbaijani aggression is dire and urgently needs to be addressed. However, the most pressing humanitarian issue today, which must be resolved immediately and unconditionally, is that of the release and return of all prisoners of war and civilian captives held by Azerbaijan. Only after this has been done will it be feasible to talk about implementation of the humanitarian aspects of the 9 November statement.

Madam Chairperson,

The current situation in Nagorno-Karabakh is the result of a flagrant violation by Azerbaijan of several core principles of the Helsinki Final Act, namely, refraining from the threat or use of force, peaceful settlement of disputes, equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. There should be no illusion that the results of the use of force, accompanied by war crimes and violations of international humanitarian law, can ever become the basis for a negotiation process aimed at reaching a lasting and sustainable peace. Durable and lasting peace in the region can only be achieved through a comprehensive settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which must include the determination of the status of Artsakh based on the realization of the inalienable right to self-determination of the people of Artsakh, the ensuring of the safe and dignified return of the recently displaced population to their homes, and the preservation of the cultural and religious heritage of the region.

Madam Chairperson, I kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of today's meeting. Thank you.



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**1305th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 1305, Agenda item 3(d)

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Madam Chairperson,

The delegation of Azerbaijan thanks the delegation of the Russian Federation for raising current issue on improving scientific and technological co-operation as response to the spread of COVID-19 – a topic of continuing relevance and importance for the OSCE participating States.

There is an urgent need for joint efforts of the international community to counter the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to be one of the biggest challenges for the world. Although, it is hard to single out any sphere not affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is first and foremost a public health crisis affecting all participating States.

The Government of Azerbaijan, on the national level, took swift measures aimed at protecting peoples' lives and health as a priority, including by taking urgent and necessary preventive steps. It should be underlined that all measures adopted by the Government of Azerbaijan due to COVID-19 are carefully designed, flexible, and are proportionate to the evolving situation. In this process, Azerbaijan did not choose to derogate from the implementation of its obligations under international human rights instruments and continues its reform agenda.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has stated that “it is through solidarity and cooperation among States and the international community that the coronavirus can be contained, and this pandemic defeated”. In a spirit of multilateralism, Azerbaijan was among the first countries to join the international efforts to contain COVID-19, including by providing voluntary contributions to the World Health Organization in the amount of 10 million US dollars. Azerbaijan has also provided humanitarian and financial assistance to more than 30 countries.

Azerbaijan – both individually and as the Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and Turkic Council Organization – has initiated several international high-level meetings in response to the coronavirus pandemic, such as the Summit of the Contact Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Extraordinary Summit of the Turkic Council on the theme of “Solidarity and Cooperation in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic” which took place on 4 May 2020 and 10 April 2020 respectively. Moreover, Azerbaijan has put forward

an initiative to convene the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the response to the COVID-19. It was supported by the overwhelming majority of the United Nations Member States and was held on 3 and 4 December 2020. At these high-level meetings, Heads of State or Government shared their views on how the international community can effectively contribute to the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Azerbaijan attaches utmost importance to the issue of vaccination and distribution of the anti-COVID-19 vaccine. While the world is witnessing the increase in diversification of vaccines against COVID-19, the disparity in the distribution of these vaccines between developing and developed countries prevents the entire international community from achieving the complete elimination of the pandemic as soon as possible and may invoke another threat to regional and global security. Azerbaijan firmly stands for the equitable, affordable and fair access to, and availability and distribution of vaccines between developing and developed countries. Therefore, we support the COVAX Facility to this end and the COVAX Advance Market Commitments Engagement Group to secure doses for 92 low- and middle-income economies as the main multilateral mechanism to ensure fair access and equitable global distribution of COVID-19 vaccine in a timely manner.

Successful global response to the pandemic must be built on concrete actions that ensure universal access to effective COVID-19 medicines, diagnostic and vaccines. It is necessary that the development and use of health technologies needed to combat COVID-19 continues to be encouraged.

We regret that participating States could not reach consensus on the Ministerial Declaration on COVID-19 at the Tirana Ministerial Council, which could have given an important impetus to our efforts in combating this common challenge. Azerbaijan welcomed and joined the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship's statement on COVID-19, which enjoyed the support of 56 participating States. In this regard, we call upon the OSCE Swedish Chairmanship to continue discussions on possible deliverables for the Ministerial Council to be held in Stockholm later this year, building on the previous discussions.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



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**1305th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1305, Agenda item 6

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Madam Chairperson,

Four months have passed since the leaders of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia signed the trilateral statement on 10 November 2020, which put an end to the armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan and set the agreed parameters for establishing durable peace in the region. On this occasion, the delegation of Azerbaijan would like to update the Permanent Council on implementation of the provisions of this trilateral statement.

We are pleased to inform the Permanent Council that Article 1 of the statement, which declared a complete ceasefire and cessation of all hostilities, despite a few incidents, has been largely observed since the signing of the statement.

Articles 2 and 6, which envisaged the return of previously occupied Aghdam, Kalbajar and Lachin districts to Azerbaijan and withdrawal of the armed forces of Armenia from these districts within specified timetable, have also been implemented. This allowed to start with post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction activities in these and other formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan in order to facilitate the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their places of origin. This also commenced the process of demarcation and delimitation of State border between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

In parallel with the withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces, a peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation has been deployed to the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan for the period of five years, in accordance with Articles 3, 4 and 6 of the trilateral statement. We expect that all Armenian armed forces will withdraw from the territories of Azerbaijan, where the peacekeepers are deployed.

On 30 January 2021, the joint Turkish-Russian Monitoring Centre has started its operation, in line with Article 5 of the trilateral statement. Located in the Aghdam district of Azerbaijan and comprised of 60 Turkish and 60 Russian servicemen, the joint centre's main goal is to ensure control over implementation of relevant provisions of the 10 November trilateral statement.

Article 7 of the trilateral statement is being carried out, as internally displaced persons and refugees return to the Nagorno-Karabakh region and adjacent districts of Azerbaijan.

Timely and full implementation of this provision depends on progress in post-conflict rehabilitation of the conflict-affected territories of Azerbaijan, including clearance of these areas from mines and other explosive hazards, and their release for the safe return of IDPs. In this regard, refusal of Armenia to provide the Azerbaijani side with maps of mines that Armenia planted on a massive scale in the formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan poses a significant challenge, as it obstructs the process of demining and rehabilitation in these territories. We hope that the OSCE will respond to the request of Azerbaijan with a targeted assistance in the areas of demining.

Humanitarian measures are being executed in accordance with Article 8 of the trilateral statement, which envisages the exchange of prisoners of war and other detainees as well as bodies of the deceased servicemen. After the end of the war in 2020, Azerbaijan has released more than 70 Armenian prisoners of war and other detainees and handed to the Armenian side remains of 1252 deceased Armenian servicemen. However, search operations for the deceased servicemen, are being hampered by the acute mine problem and leads to casualties among the servicemen and civilians from both sides as well as peacekeepers during search operations.

Implementation of humanitarian measures is an indispensable part of wider efforts aimed at building confidence, peace and promoting reconciliation between former sides to the conflict. Azerbaijan adheres to the full implementation of humanitarian measures as required by the trilateral statement. We urge Armenia to demonstrate similar approach and fulfil its obligations, including by disclosing information on the whereabouts of remains of Azerbaijani servicemen deceased both in the war in early 1990s and the last year's war, treating Azerbaijani prisoners of war in line with its obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law, and the provisions of the Geneva Conventions, facilitating unimpeded access to them by International Committee of the Red Cross and providing timely and accurate information about them.

Article 9 of the 10 November trilateral statement envisages restoration of all economic and transport links in the region. It has been supplemented by another trilateral statement signed by the leaders of the three countries on 11 January 2021, which set up the tripartite Working Group co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Ministers of Azerbaijan, Russia and Armenia, and provided the framework for discussions. Thus far, four meetings of the Working Group were held, which made recommendations to the competent authorities and prepared the list and schedule of measures to revive transport infrastructure in the region. Realization of these provisions can lead to sustainable economic growth and long-term development of the region, thus serving the broader goal of durable peace and stability in the region.

The trilateral statement of 10 November 2020 provides a clear guidance for attaining sustainable peace, security and stability in the South Caucasus region and makes this process irreversible. To this end, it must continue to be realized in a comprehensive manner without reservations, building on the progress of the last four months. We once again call on OSCE participating States to render their support to the trilateral statement and by so doing, provide their contribution to building peace and stability in our region based on the OSCE principles and commitments and comprehensive concept of security. This will strengthen OSCE's relevance and visibility in the region.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/1305  
11 March 2021  
Annex 5

Original: ENGLISH

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**1305th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1305, Agenda item 6

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

We thank the Azerbaijani delegation for providing an important update to the Permanent Council on the implementation of various measures by Azerbaijan.

The two statements issued on 10 November 2020 and 11 January 2021 by the President of Azerbaijan, the Prime Minister of Armenia and the President of the Russian Federation were important steps.

One of the significant aspects of the 10 November statement is the monitoring of the ceasefire. A memorandum on establishing a joint centre in Azerbaijan was signed between the Turkish Minister of National Defence and his Russian counterpart on 11 November 2020. The joint centre is located close to the village of Merzili in Ağdam district and became operational on 30 January 2021. The joint centre is contributing to establishing and maintaining peace and stability in the region.

Furthermore, Turkey continues to support the Azerbaijani army in its efforts to clear mines and improvised explosive devices in areas liberated from occupation. Personnel of Turkish Land Forces Command were sent to Azerbaijan to provide support in clearing mines and improvised explosive devices. These Turkish staff are also offering trainings in this regard in Azerbaijan and between 3 and 29 January the Turkish Engineering School and Training Centre Command organized a training for 23 Azerbaijani personnel in Izmir. In addition, the first batch of mechanical mine-clearing equipment has been sent to Azerbaijan. These vehicles, in total 20, will be used in clearing settlements and arable lands of mines and unexploded ammunition.

We welcome the steps taken by Azerbaijan for developing and improving economic and transport connections. Turkish companies are actively involved in projects. Turkey is ready to support the reconstruction, development and peace in the region. Turkey supports President Aliyev's proposal for the establishment of a six-party regional co-operation platform. Turkey believes that the way to achieve sustainable peace and stability in the South Caucasus is through regional ownership of regional matters.



We join Azerbaijan's call on the OSCE and its participating States to support the two trilateral statements.

Madam Chairperson,

We see the Armenian delegation insisting on pursuing a policy based on disinformation, distortion and deception. It is hybrid in nature. Needless to say, we reject all allegations also repeated today in the hate speech slot. We regret the continuation of poisonous discourse and enmity here in the OSCE. The representatives of the Government of Armenia have not shown any indication of any change – not even following the significant developments after 10 November.

However, new approaches are needed. Now there is a real chance for peace. This is our sincere call. For that, we need the Government of Armenia to change course. As Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu has recently stated, it is Armenia and the Armenian people that will benefit most from the stability and economic development in the region. A positive step by Armenia will be reciprocated by Turkey.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.