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PERMANENT MISSION ENGLISH only
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
TO THE OSCE

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Statement at the 918th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
June 21, 2012

*Agenda item: Any other business
On the occasion of the World Refugee Day*

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

June 20th marked the World Refugee Day, as established by the UN General Assembly resolution 55/76 on 4 December 2000.

We are pleased to note the statements of high level representatives of the European Union and the United States on the World Refugee Day, which highlight efforts and activities aimed at eliminating this humanitarian problem.

Azerbaijan, as a country which has more than 1 million of refugees, internally displaced people and asylum seekers in its territory continues its domestic and international efforts to contribute to the solution of displacement problem in the world. At this point let me also mention Ashgabat Declaration of the International Ministerial Conference of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on Refugees in the Muslim World, which was adopted on 12th May, 2012. Deep concern over the situation of refugees in the world has been expressed in the Declaration. OIC participating States have recognized the need to step up efforts to address the root causes of refugee situations in accordance with international law, while respecting sovereignty of Member States. One paragraph of Ashgabat Declaration has been particularly dedicated to the plight of more than one million Azerbaijani refugees and displaced people.

Taken into account the fact that a number of conflicts in the OSCE area which resulted in a high number of refugees and displaced population across the region, we call on current and incoming Chairmanships to give due attention to this problem. In this regard we encourage OSCE executive structures, particularly CPC and ODIHR, as well as participating States to closely and cross dimensionally look into problems of displaced population, starting from their right to safe and dignified return, to economic empowerment of displaced population, and ensuring their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. We call on participating States to demonstrate

solidarity to fully implement existing OSCE commitments related to displacement and to adopt relevant Ministerial Council decision.

Using this opportunity we'd like once again to express our appreciation to the Swiss Chairmanship of the Human Dimension Committee, Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship for their work in 2011 aimed at revitalizing efforts of participating States in finding durable solutions to the problems of refugees, displaced and stateless population across the OSCE area.

I thank you, Madam Chairperson.