



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

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting
Rule of Law in Promotion and Protection of Human Rights
11-12 July, 2013

PC.SHDM.DEL/36/13
19 July 2013

ENGLISH only

Closing remarks

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

OSCE plays a leading role in promoting and protecting human rights and establishing respect for the rule of law. Commitments which were adopted through all these years emphasize that the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security.

We welcome the decision to devote the second Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting to the topic of "*The rule of law in promotion and protection of human rights*".

Azerbaijan acknowledges the importance of respect for the rule of law. The government continues the efforts towards enhancement the human rights protection mechanisms and strengthening the democracy.

We are convinced that supplementary human dimension meetings would set a basis for a constructive dialogue if aimed at constructive exchange of ideas and best practices practice.

It is our believe, that NGOs can perform a better role in the promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. However, geographic balance in NGOs presented at the Human Dimension Events should be respected in order to have added value.

We would also like to refer to the note verbal distributed by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan with information on the activities of Non-Governmental

Organizations in Azerbaijan, namely Free Thought University, National Democratic Institute and Human Rights House (SEC.DEL/195/13, 11 July, 2013) in the view of concerns of some participating States over the activities of Non-Governmental Organizations in our country voiced recently at the Permanent Council.

The issue of NGOs in Azerbaijan was, as well, discussed during the side event held within this Supplementary Human Dimension meeting on July 11, 2013. With regard to this side event our Delegation would like to note that some speakers and panelists tried to use this platform for competing accusations, which causes biased assessment of the situation in some participating States.

Moreover, the fact that only 4 countries out of 35 which were reviewed for the Annual Report 2013 of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders were selected as case studies is nothing more than reflections of biased, prejudiced and unjustified approach towards those countries.

Our delegation would like to encourage organizers to take note of these remarks in the context of future OSCE events.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.