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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
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In response to the Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz

Mr. Chairperson,

We warmly welcome Minister Kurz at the meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council.

We want to express our gratitude to the Austrian Government for hosting OSCE and pleased to stress increasing importance of Vienna as a capital of multilateral diplomacy. OSCE is among such organizations where major challenges impact on its effectiveness and we would like to share with you some of our critical assessments as with the host country.

We are living through a difficult, but necessary period of reflection of a role that the OSCE could play for building a security community free of conflicts and diving lines. Our visions of the OSCE role might differ, but none of us would succeed in reinforcing our respective visions until we foster a culture of dialogue, try to articulate our concerns in a constructive manner and find ways to cooperate to advance security.

The OSCE region is the area of competing and sometimes opposing political-military groupings and we need to have thorough discussions on security concerns of OSCE participating States which have not joined to any military blocks within the OSCE area.

OSCE's comparative advantage lies in its comprehensive security concept. There is an obvious disbalance in focusing mostly on one security dimension to the detriment of others. Unequal approach towards different aspects within that dimension, engaging in finger pointing and lack of dialogue undermines confidence among OSCE participating States.

Some OSCE institutions engage into political rhetoric and deliver statements which are obviously beyond the mandate entrusted to them. In this regard we recall the positive experience of Austrian representative Ambassador Strohal, who was a director of ODIHR. Since he is appointed as coordinator for HD block in Helsinki+40 process, we expect him to guide our discussions based on this experience, including on the review of the ODIHR's role.

The OSCE needs a platform for frank and open-minded exchange of views on all the problematic issues and in this regard the Helsinki+40 process is an important format. Achieving progress in resolution of the protracted conflicts in the OSCE area is a must for the process.

In conclusion, I wish Minister Kurz and his able team led by Ambassador Strohal every success in their endeavors.

Thank you.