

**Statement by the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

**Warsaw, 21 September.**

**Opening plenary session**

Thank you Mr Director,

First of all the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan would like to thank the Serbian Chairmanship in Office, ODIHR and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland as the host country for organizing Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) 2015.

But before the working sessions begin we would like to voice our concern and objection to participation of Non-Governmental Organization “European Center for Artsakh” based in Berlin, Germany in the work of the HDIM. During the last two HDIMs this NGO actively promoted the illegal regime established in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan through use of force against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan accompanied by heinous crimes, including ethnic cleansing, war crimes, crimes against humanity and acts of genocide committed against innocent civilian population of the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan, as a result of which about millions of civilian Azerbaijanis were forcefully expelled from their homes and continue to be deprived of their basic human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In this context, the participation of the mentioned organization in the work of the HDIM, would be tantamount to endorsing the results of violations of human rights of millions of Azerbaijanis, which is by no means in line with the principles that the OSCE stands for and is contrary to the very aim of this event.

Azerbaijani delegation emphasizes that CSCE Helsinki Document 1992, Chapter IV envisages that provisions of this document regulating relations of CSCE with non-governmental organizations would not be applied to persons or organizations which resort to the use of violence or publicly condone terrorism or the use of violence. We would like to recall OSCE Bucharest Document 2001, which recognizes separatism as one of the root causes of terrorism and as a factor contributing to creation of conditions conducive to terrorism. Therefore, participation of NGOs which promote separatism and ideas contradicting the core values of OSCE in the work of our organization is against the principles, rules and procedures of OSCE and cannot be allowed.

We strongly reject such an unacceptable practice of admission of NGOs propagating separatist regimes to human dimension events. This step is detrimental to the overall work of our organization, as well as to the norms and principles of OSCE.

We hope our voice will be heard as this kind of practice diminishes trust and confidence towards the ODIHR and these events.

Thank you.