



**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
OSCE Permanent Council Meeting
24 October, 2013**

on cease-fire violation during monitoring

I thank the Delegation of France for raising this subject under this agenda item.

We are deeply concerned that the ceasefire violation occurred during monitoring activity. It should be taken into account that regular ceasefire violations and deliberate attacks by the armed forces of Armenia against Azerbaijani civilians and civilian objects have become more frequent and violent in recent times, resulting in the killing and wounding of many inhabitants residing near the front line. We emphasize that Azerbaijan will resolutely suppress any provocation by Armenia.

It is a documented fact that the territories of Azerbaijan are occupied by Armenia, and by maintaining its military presence on the territory of Azerbaijan, the Armenian side on a regular basis violates the cease-fire regime established on the Line of Contact. We recognize the importance of observing the cease-fire regime that should minimize human losses. However, OSCE should not settle for only dealing with technical aspects of the cease-fire, which was actually intended in 1994 as a temporary mean to speedily proceed to an agreement on the conflict settlement.

We are concerned with the situation, when due to the lack of progress efforts in the negotiation process and beyond are mostly concentrated to prevent the outbreak of military hostilities. Azerbaijan does not consider its territorial integrity as a subject of negotiations, nor are we interested in war, since we believe that peace process potential is not exhausted. Neither will we accept the attempts to consolidate the *status quo* as an alternative to peace.

In this situation the best measure to progress in the conflict resolution process is the withdrawal of the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and deployment of the multinational OSCE peacekeeping force. This would allow achieving a breakthrough in the peace process and opening up the region for building trust and confidence.