



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

PC.DEL/35/13
28 January 2013

**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
at the 937th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
17 January, 2013**

ENGLISH only

*in response to the address delivered by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine,
H.E. Mr. Leonid Kozhara*

Mr. Chairman,

We warmly welcome H.E. Leonid Kozhara, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine to the Permanent Council as the OSCE's Chairman-in-Office and thank him for outlining the priorities of the Ukrainian Chairmanship.

Mr. Minister,

Nowadays, the OSCE community is confronted with various security challenges, which threaten peace and development and impact on the implementation of commitments by participating States. We hope that the decision on "Helsinki+40 process" adopted in Dublin will help us strengthen the role of the OSCE in the pan-European security architecture as well as address a number of legitimate concerns of the OSCE participating States. There is an obvious need to review and assess the OSCE mandates and performance in conflict cycle related issues, in particular conflict resolution and post- conflict rehabilitation stages. Based on existing commitments and tasking more concerted efforts should be invested in exploring the OSCE role in multinational peacekeeping operations with a particular focus on civilian and police components. Consideration of OSCE's interaction with various military and security arrangements must be addressed in the context of indivisibility of the OSCE area, including legitimate concerns and political and security guarantees for non-block OSCE participating States.

We appreciate an increased focus of the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship on the resolution of protracted conflicts in the OSCE area. We encourage the Ukrainian Chairmanship to reinvigorate the negotiation formats and make them more dynamic with a view to finding soonest resolution of the conflicts on the basis of norms and principles of international law and Helsinki Final Act. With regard to the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, we believe that holding a meeting of the OSCE Minsk Group to start substantive discussions and draft a comprehensive Roadmap leading to peace is a best way to overcome a deadlock in the negotiations. We support the initiatives to establish a dialogue between the conflict-affected Azerbaijani and Armenian communities of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan as they could help building confidence between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

With regard to priorities identified by the Chairmanship in Conventional Arms Control and Confidence-and Security-Building Regimes, we reaffirm our support to the efforts aimed at preserving integrity and legally-binding nature of the conventional arms control regime as well as its fundamental principles including the host-nation consent. We must avoid creating multi-layered security arrangements in the OSCE area. We should not forget that continued occupation of internationally recognized territories of OSCE participating States and military deployments thereof against the host-nation consent are the immediate causes of ineffectiveness and gradual failure of existing arms control, non-proliferation and CSBMs agreements and instruments. Thus in any efforts to strengthen arms control and CSBMs regimes, we should seek an outcome that will strengthen the principles of state sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-use of force against the territorial integrity and political independence of any State, "host-nation consent" and transparency which have been the bedrock of arms control agreements and constitute the fundamental basis of inter-state relations as envisaged in the Helsinki Accords of 1975.

The Azerbaijani Delegation looks forward to working with the Ukrainian Chairmanship on energy-related activities in the OSCE region. In the context of environmental security, the issues of nuclear safety, including the ongoing policy debate on stricter nuclear safety standards, decommissioning of aging nuclear reactors, access to full information on nuclear projects should represent an essential and indelible component of the targeted agenda of the second dimension. We believe that the OSCE along with other specialized institutions, including those within the United Nations system, based on its comprehensive and cooperative approach to security, might provide a complimentary forum to explore ways to address these issues.

In human dimension we expect that the issue of promotion and protection of fundamental rights of displaced population in the OSCE area, including their right to return to their homes of origin will continue to be thoroughly discussed this year as a matter of priority.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, Azerbaijan Delegation reiterates its willingness to work closely with Ukrainian Chairmanship and we would like, once again, to thank H.E. Minister Leonid Kozhara for addressing the Permanent Council today, and wish him and his country all the success in his endeavors.

Thank you.