

AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASININ  
ATƏT YANINDA  
DAİMİ NÜMAYƏNDƏLİYİ



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN  
TO THE OSCE

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## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

### **The meeting of the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 19-30 September, 2016**

*Working session I*

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

In Copenhagen document of 1990 participating States agreed that democracy is an inherent element of the rule of law and recognised the importance of pluralism with regard to political organisations.

Respect of the rule of law, increasing the capacity of democratic institutions, promotion of the civil society and development of the freedom of expression and media is of essential elements within the overall process of democratisation. It is with this context the Government of Azerbaijan continuously undertakes efforts to enhance the human rights protection mechanisms and strengthening the democracy. Ensuring the rights and freedoms of a person and a citizen, decent living conditions for the citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan is the highest objective of the State. We have established all necessary legal basis for free and open functioning of vibrant civil society, fair administration of justice and transparent judicial processes.

On September 26 Azerbaijan will hold a referendum on constitutional amendments. In connection with that the Government of Azerbaijan invited the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and International Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States to observe the elections.

International cooperation is indispensable element on the path of democratic development and strengthening of protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. We are working with relevant international bodies, as well as ODIHR to advance democratic transformation in Azerbaijan. The Government of Azerbaijan extended invitation to all UN human rights mechanisms and UN Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders Mr. Michael Forst is currently visiting Azerbaijan.

With regard to our cooperation with ODIHR, we would like to stress that Azerbaijan values the work and recognizes the importance of this institutions established by the OSCE participating States. ODIHR while operating strictly in line with the provided mandates can contribute to the implementation of the OSCE commitments across all three dimensions and facilitate contacts among OSCE participating States with the aim to strengthen the security in the OSCE area.

We proceed from the position of necessity to build cooperative relations with all OSCE institutions, including ODIHR on the basis of dialogue, mutual respect and common interest. ODIHR as the main OSCE body in charge of assisting in implementation of human dimension related commitments should respect the principles of independence, impartiality and professionalism in all its activities as prescribed by its mandate.

Director Link in his statement touched upon several current challenges and threats to democracies, in particular on protection of human rights while countering terrorism. Therefore we would like to elaborate a bit more on this point.

Terrorism is a serious threat to international peace and security. Today, when our world continues to suffer from terrorism and terrorist acts, in their frequency and magnitude, claim the lives of innocent people and undermine peace and security, a comprehensive and integrated approach to combating this scourge through concerted and coordinated international actions remains ever more vital.

The comprehensive and integrated approach means among other factors countering the appeal of terrorism, strengthening capacity-building and protecting human rights as a central part of our response. It means resolving differences peacefully, providing education and job opportunities, promoting development and intercultural dialogue, and addressing the grievances that terrorists exploit. It also means promoting respect for human rights and respect for the rule of law, which are integral to any sustainable counter-terrorism approach.

Conflict-affected territories, especially those under foreign military occupation, often provide fertile ground for terrorists and other non-State actors, who use terrorism as a means of achieving their illegal goals. The 2001 OSCE Bucharest Plan of Action for combating terrorism recognizes the inseparable link between terrorism and aggressive separatism, extremism and organized crime. It is within this context, we reiterate our call on OSCE participating states to mobilize common efforts for addressing the root causes of terrorism and for eliminating the conditions conducive to its spread.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.