



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

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

948th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

April 18, 2013

in response to the address by H.E. Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive director of the UNODC and Director-General of the UN Office in Vienna

I would like to welcome H.E. Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) at the meeting of the Permanent Council and thank him for the report on the UNODC-OSCE cooperation.

Azerbaijan supports UNODC's leading role in combating illicit drugs and international crime, and in delivering legal and technical assistance to the UN Member States. This is the basis on which we build fruitful and mutually reinforcing practical cooperation with different structural units of UNODC.

Azerbaijan is initiator and participant of several national, regional and global projects carried out under the aegis of UNODC. In addition, Azerbaijan is gradually becoming a donor by contributing financially to the implementation of various projects of UNODC.

As far as inter-institutional cooperation is concerned, we would like to recall the most recent International Conference on Strengthening Cooperation in Preventing Terrorism co-organized by the Government of Azerbaijan, UNODC and Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), held on 18-19 March 2013 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The Conference was held under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan – H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev and was co-chaired by the UNODC Executive Director Mr. Yury Fedotov and ISESCO Director General Mr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, as well as attended by high-level representatives of 52 countries, 22 major International Organizations and many well-known prominent experts and personalities. Final document of the Conference - Chair's summary was distributed to all Permanent Missions accredited to the OSCE and the UN in Vienna.

Regretfully, the Conference was poorly attended by European nations. Nevertheless, the success of the Conference was pre-determined by the fact that it was designed as a platform

for consideration of new and old threats from the perspective of inter-cultural exchange of views and recommendations.

Being an active promoter of inter-cultural exchanges and dialogue, Azerbaijan believes that discussing and addressing problems of humanity from all angles, in particular from the perspectives of countries and institutions representing Islamic societies helps us enrich the dialogue and search for comprehensive ways of overcoming the challenges we all face.

In conclusion, availing ourselves of this opportunity we would like to express our gratitude to Mr. Fedotov for his dedication and support to the development of cooperation between the Government of Azerbaijan and UNODC. We are ready to work with UNODC in further advancement of our common interests.

Thank you Madam Chairperson.

Brief information on the cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and UNODC

Action to counter drug trafficking remains one of the key collaborative efforts of Azerbaijan and UNODC. Besides bilateral dimension of the cooperation, Azerbaijan is actively contributing to the regional efforts of UNODC in this field.

Establishment of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) is an excellent example of the steps undertaken to enhance regional efforts to fight drug trafficking. CARICC, initiated by UNODC, brings together law enforcement agencies from Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation and facilitates cross-border information-sharing and enhanced coordination and implementation of counter-narcotic operational activities.

Earlier in 2011, Azerbaijan joined UNODC-World Customs Organization Container Control Programme, the aim of which is to develop a network of border control cooperation units at various land and sea ports to prevent the flow of drugs, precursors and other illegal goods. Currently establishment of the Port Control Unit in Baku is underway within the framework of this Programme. Local officers assigned to work in Baku Port Control Unit are being regularly trained by the experts of UNODC and WCO.

Combating corruption is an important component of the cooperation between UNODC and Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan is a State Party to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

Compliance with and implementation of UNCAC by the Government of Azerbaijan has been recently reviewed by the international group of experts, including experts from UNODC, under the Implementation Review Mechanism of the Convention. Final report of the review was clear evidence of the successful implementation of UNCAC by Azerbaijan.

Another field for effective cooperation between UNODC and Azerbaijan is combating terrorism. In the area of counter-terrorism UNODC is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, to strengthen the capacity of their criminal justice systems in preventing and countering acts of terrorism. In this regard, law enforcement agencies of the Republic of Azerbaijan have been provided appropriate legal and technical assistance by UNODC.

UNODC and the Government of Azerbaijan co-organized several international events devoted to combating drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorism.