



Hügelgasse 2, A-1130, Wien | 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
Opening Session, HDIM
Warsaw, 10 September 2018

HDIM.DEL/0508/2018/EN

21 September 2018

Madame Chair,

In view of the references by previous speakers to the procedural matters related to HDIM meetings, the Delegation of Azerbaijan would like to state the following.

ODIHR is mandated by consensus OSCE decisions to follow strictly the organizational modalities of Human Dimension Implementation Meetings, including the provisions on NGO participation, as stipulated in the Helsinki Document of 1992 and PC Decision PC.DEC/476 of 2002 to ensure orderly conduct of HDIM meetings.

A number of participating States called on ODIHR to prevent using HDIM against the legitimate interests of participating States and to ensure the debate in HDIM is constructive and directed at review of implementation of OSCE human dimension commitments of participating States.

We took note that ODIHR in response to these calls, in cooperation with the Italian Chairmanship, introduced the new registration system and prepared the Code of Conduct, which we hope will prevent abusing OSCE platform for propagating unlawful separatist entities.

Yet, not all immediate concerns of all participating States were addressed in their entirety. This resulted in failure to approve the agenda, as so required by the PC decision 476 and the Rules of Procedure, which raises questions with regard to the status of this meeting.

The Republic of Azerbaijan is strong proponent of following consensus-based decisions within the OSCE. Disregard of the consensus rule and the Rules of Procedure of the Organisation is detrimental to our shared concept of indivisible and cooperative security and will have negative consequences for the work of the OSCE.

And lastly, with regard to references to Azerbaijan in the Statements of RFOM Harlem Desir and EU Delegation, I would like to say that we consider such statements as a reflection of a lack of proper understanding of domestic policy priorities of the Government of Azerbaijan, as well as political process taking place in our country. Double standards and selective approach to developments in our region cast doubt on credibility of such statements.

I would like to underline that no one is prosecuted or detained in Azerbaijan due to his or her professional activities. All citizens regardless of their profession are equal before the law. And our Government will continue to enforce the rule of law.

Instead of voicing usual ungrounded allegations, we encourage EU Delegation and RFOM Harlem Desir to take advantage of the presence of Azerbaijani delegation here and to engage in the constructive dialogue.

Thank you.