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**Statement by the Delegation of Azerbaijan  
at 846<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council  
13 January 2011**

ENGLISH only

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

We are honored to welcome H.E. Foreign Minister of the Republic of Lithuania Audronius Ažubalis to the Permanent Council as the OSCE's 2011 Chairman-in-Office and thank him for outlining the priorities of the Lithuanian Chairmanship.

As the year 2011 begins, the security in the OSCE area continues facing fundamental challenges and remains an unfinished task. We look forward to working with the Chairmanship to address these challenges.

For all those who share the conviction of comprehensive security and its indivisibility, lasting and sustainable conflict resolution should remain a priority task. We support your focus on protracted conflicts. Here, we must underline that the idea of security community can not become true if use of force against the territorial integrity of state continues and its consequences remain.

We believe that peaceful negotiations on the settlement of these conflicts can yield results. In this regard, the position of international community is vital, since the peace process is conducted in an international setting and the norms and principles of the international law enshrined in the UN Charter and Helsinki Final Act are considered as the basis for the settlement.

The conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan is a classic example of the trampling on all of the Helsinki Decalogue. One party to the conflict feels comfortable in misusing the principle of equal rights of peoples and their right to self-determination after it got rid of the compactly living Azerbaijani minority from its territory.

We face devastating consequences of the continuing use of force against the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and ethnic cleansing against ethnic Azerbaijanis who lived in the occupied territories of my country. This use of force *continuum* to sustain the control over the occupied territories and to hinder the return of the IDP

to their homes represents the serious challenge to the regional and international security.

We expect the Lithuania Chairmanship to exercise a strong leadership of the Organization for achieving a breakthrough in peaceful negotiations, ending use of force against the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and eliminating its consequences.

We share the vision of a genuine regional cooperation in our part of the world based on European values that imply free movement of people, capital and goods.

Sadly enough, we are still far from that perspective. In our region, people can not live at their own home, visit their sacred places and cemeteries - let alone free movement of goods and capital. Around one million Azerbaijanis have been deprived of their home and native lands. Their return to home is held as a hostage to unacceptable political purposes.

There should be no place for ethnic cleansings, war crimes and artificially created mono-ethnic societies in Europe.

Azerbaijan expressed his readiness to undertake all necessary measures, on the basis of the norms and principles of the international law, in particular in accordance with the provisions of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, to agree on a model of self-governance within the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan securing the rights of both communities (Azerbaijani and Armenian) that will live in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

In accordance with the model that Minsk Group Co-Chairs are discussing with Armenia and Azerbaijan, the status of the region should be defined in the future, for which the appropriate objective conditions must be established. These objective conditions comprise such elements as liberation of territories, return of population, restoration of territories and opening of communications, at the same time defining an interim status that will secure equal rights for Armenians living currently in and for Azerbaijanis that will return to Nagorno Karabakh.

It is exactly the type of solution we need and that would enable full-fledged regional cooperation based on European practice.

We would like also to touch upon the issue of the confidence-building measures. Past experience clearly demonstrates that any initiative in the circumstances of continuing occupation would be without effect unless the relevant conditions are established. Obviously, withdrawal of armed forces from the occupied territories and return of IDPs to their homes and living in their native lands are the most effective and practical confidences building measures. With regard to monitoring

activities, it has to be underlined that another party to the conflict continues to violate cease-fire regime even in the course of monitorings. On the other hand, the last incidents demonstrated that the current monitoring mechanisms don't work. Therefore, we should first and foremost consider ensuring the effectiveness of the existing monitoring arrangements.

Mr. Chairman,

Energy security is a complex issue that needs multifaceted approach. As a major producer and exporter of hydrocarbon resources Azerbaijan welcomes international dialogue on strengthening energy security.

However, OSCE's institutional capacity and its expertise are not sufficient for covering various aspects of energy security. In our opinion, the contents of the relevant OSCE Ministerial Decisions should be a guiding light for clarifying the ultimate objective of OSCE in tackling energy security and energy infrastructure safety aspects. The whole phase of exploring those opportunities or options within OSCE and its further implementation process should be demand-driven and non-overlapping with the portfolios of other specialized international institutions or organizations.

Promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination is a matter of particular importance since the alarming trends of intolerance that happen lately. Stereotyping of ethnic, racial, religious diversities, prejudice and insult to diverse feelings as well as Islamofobia sometimes hiding behind freedom of expression are taking shape of trend which may have many ramifications. Azerbaijan constantly makes its contribution to promoting of tolerance and non discrimination and is ready to continue its participation in the activities in this field.

Azerbaijani Delegation would like also to support the Chairmanship in its intention to focus on the issues of cybersecurity which should be dealt with utmost attention.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we would like to wish the distinguished Minister Ažubalis and his team both in Vilnius and here in Vienna every success in fulfilling the responsible and laborious chairmanship task.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.