

AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASININ
ATƏT YANINDA
DAİMİ NÜMAYƏNDƏLİYİ



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
TO THE OSCE

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
1402nd Meeting of the Permanent Council
15 December 2022**

*in response to the Report on the
activities of the Chairman-in-Office*

Mr. Chair,

We took note of the statement delivered by the Chairmanship under this agenda item.

The Delegation of Azerbaijan has already presented its position, including in this Permanent Council, on the so-called “need assessment team” sent to Armenia to the border areas with Azerbaijan on 21-27 October 2022.

We regret that the Polish Chairmanship took this unilateral decision bypassing the existing decision-making procedures and ignoring the established practice within the Organization. This visit was not mandated by the OSCE Permanent Council, no Unified Budget expenditure was authorized and the fact that this trip was funded through extra budgetary contributions of individual participating States is a testimony to the ambiguous basis for this exercise.

Azerbaijan rejected this unilateral decision and does not accept its outcomes. Nor will it be bound by them. This arbitrary, unilateral decision is against the basic tenet of any responsible and credible mediation and confidence building, which require prior consent and active support of the parties directly concerned in a particular situation. As such, it will not have any positive contribution to the process of normalization of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Quite the opposite. This unilateral action only shatters remaining trust and confidence in the Organization, further eroding its role as inclusive platform for dialogue for cooperative solutions.

At this critical juncture, when the sides are moving ahead with the next crucial steps in the normalization process, we urge the incoming North Macedonian Chairmanship, Executive Structures and participating States to refrain from any actions in the future that will harm or jeopardize this sensitive, already difficult process.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.