

**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

**25th Economic and Environmental Forum
FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING
“Good Governance, Business Partnerships and Economic Participation”**

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Mr. Chairperson,

The Republic of Azerbaijan attaches importance to economic cooperation, further development of connectivity between participating States and building partnerships for sustainable development and welcomes inclusion of these topics into the agenda of the First Preparatory Meeting.

Azerbaijan has successfully developed its cooperation with regional and global partners and has either initiated or actively promoted a number of large-scale trans-regional transportation and energy projects. Promotion of intra- and trans-regional transportation links, including through development of efficient multimodal transport corridors can contribute to sustainable economic connectivity and economic growth in participating States. They will create better conditions for small and medium-sized enterprises, will generate jobs and contribute to diversification of economies.

The Hamburg Ministerial Council decision on good governance and connectivity and all previous transport-related OSCE documents and decisions to which we have agreed provide a useful framework for cooperation in this regard.

With regard to the topic of rebuilding economic partnerships in conflict regions, included as a subject of discussions in this session, the following must be underlined. Implementation fully and in good faith of all provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and full respect for the principles guiding relations among participating States set out therein, in particular respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States is an essential basis for the development of mutual relations and economic co-operation among participating States.

In the 2030 United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives emphasized in particular that the Agenda was to be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law and reaffirmed the need to respect the territorial integrity and political independence of States.

In Astana Commemorative Declaration (2010), the OSCE participating States reiterated their commitment to the concept, initiated in the Helsinki Final Act, of comprehensive, co-operative,

equal and indivisible security, which, *inter alia*, links economic and environmental co-operation with peaceful inter-State relations. In Dublin Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism (2012), the participating States reaffirmed that peace, good international relations and the security and stability of the State are crucial for the creation of a climate of confidence which is essential to ensure positive economic and social development.

Thus being said, in the conflict-affected regions, like the South Caucasus, it is resolution of conflicts that will create appropriate conditions for the full-fledged economic cooperation among the participating States concerned. Economic co-operation in the context of conflicts could be a post-conflict rehabilitation measure and as an additional incentive for the participating States to seek early resolution of the conflicts on the basis of international law.

In the absence of tangible results from negotiations and persistent stalemate in conflict resolution process, economic activities, including those introduced as CBMs, will only consolidate the current *status-quo* and the results of ethnic cleansing, entrench positions of control and occupation achieved as a result of the unlawful use of force. They will inevitably produce the opposite effect by contributing to growing sense of impunity and permissiveness and encouraging holding on to unconstructive position in the negotiations.

Efforts of OSCE and its participating States should first and foremost be directed at removing of the major consequences of the conflicts and their early resolution.

In the context of conflicts, the fundamental international legal requirement is that no State shall recognize as lawful the situation resulting from the unlawful use of force and nor render aid or assistance in maintaining it. It is critical that States cooperate with a view to ending such situation that emerged as a result of serious breaches of international law.

In Maastricht and Dublin Ministerial Declarations we undertook commitments to encourage the business community to take into account in its activities the social, environmental, humanitarian and security needs of the participating States. Furthermore, the Human Rights Council in its resolution 17/4 (2011), emphasized, *inter alia*, that the transnational corporations and other business enterprises have a responsibility to respect human rights. John Ruggie, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, in his report (2011) underlined that the most egregious business-related human rights abuses take place in conflict-affected areas and other situations of widespread violence. Thus being said, business activity should not cause, contribute or be linked to human rights abuses, not least in conflict-affected areas.

States have a duty to ensure that all their natural and legal persons, wherever located, abide by international obligations, including respect of human rights. States should clearly communicate to their business enterprises their expectations of business behaviour in specific conflict situations, including acting with due diligence in full respect for the principles of international law and to avoid infringing on the rights of internally-displaced persons expelled from their homes and properties and avoiding the trade or other economic activity in violation of international humanitarian law that may contribute to fueling the conflict.

Thank you.