

ATƏT YANINDA  
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DAİMİ NÜMAYƏNDƏLİYİ



PERMANENT MISSION ENGLISH only  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN  
TO THE OSCE

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## Statement at the 815<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council June 17, 2010

*In response to the statement by H.E. Mr. Jorge Sampaio*

Mr. Chairman,

We join previous speakers in warmly welcoming H.E. Mr. Jorge Sampaio, United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations to the Permanent Council meeting.

As a member of the Group of Friends, Azerbaijan has always supported the Alliance of Civilizations. We fully share main aims of UNAOC, which include building respect and understanding among cultures and reducing polarization between nations and cultures. Azerbaijan actively participates in all high-level events of the Alliance, thus demonstrating the political support to it. Very recent such event was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Forum of UNAOC hold in Rio de Janeiro which was attended by a high-level delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, headed by the Chairperson of the State Committee on the Work with Religious Associations.

Azerbaijan also contributes to the Alliance by holding a number of cross-cultural dialogue related events. On 28 October-2 November 2007 Baku hosted a youth camp and an “Intergenerational high-level conference” in the framework of the “Youth for the Alliance of Civilizations”. On June 10-11 2008 an international forum on “Expanding the role of women in cross-cultural dialogue”, organized by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation with the support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO). On November 11-12 2009 Baku hosted another international conference on “Inter-civilizational dialogue: Insight from Azerbaijan” which was dedicated to 40 years’ anniversary of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and was organized by OIC and Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy.

Your Excellency,

As outlined in the outcomes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Rio Forum, it was announced that the 1<sup>st</sup> conference of the Global Youth Movement for the UN Alliance of Civilizations will be held in Baku in October 2010 at the invitation of the Government of Azerbaijan. It gives us honour and pleasure to host this event and continue making our contributions with a noble aim of promoting dialogue amongst civilizations.

Using this opportunity we wish you all the best in your future work.

Thank you.