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DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

Statement

**On the 71st Anniversary of the End of the Second World War
delivered by the Delegation of Armenia at the 1099th Meeting of the OSCE
Permanent Council
May 05, 2015**

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to share some remarks in our national capacity in regard to the commemoration of the 71st Anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe.

This anniversary is important for all the OSCE participating States along with other remembrance dates. The Victory Day is a good opportunity to pay tribute to all those who through their enormous sacrifices eventually won the peace and dignity for future generations. The Armenian people alongside with the peoples of the Soviet Union and other allied nations made their contribution to the victory of humanity.

600 thousand Armenians participated in the war and almost half of them did not return from the battle fields and concentration camps. Aside from Great Patriotic War, Armenians played an important role in resistance and liberation movement in Europe particularly in France.

In reference to the statement of the Azerbaijani Delegation, we would like to state that indeed May 9 marks an important and symbolic milestone in the history of freedom movement of people of Nagorno-Karabakh, namely liberation of the ancient Armenian city of Shushi. The Armenian population of Shushi was massacred in 1920, which paved way for subsequent 70-year long occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh. In 1991 and 1992 Shushi was turned into a military stronghold of the Azerbaijani occupation army, from where the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh was constantly and indiscriminately shelled, causing significant casualties of the civilian population. Therefore, liberation of Shushi in May 9, 1992 was important for ensuring physical security of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh. It was a turning point in freedom movement, which gave people hope for achieving peaceful, secure and dignified life in their own homeland.

Thank you.