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

Statement

In response to Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan

**delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 952nd Meeting of the OSCE
Permanent Council
May 14, 2013**

Mr. Chairman,

We thank Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov, Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan for his address.

We took note of determination of Azerbaijan to work in the OSCE towards security community and its readiness to contribute within the Helsinki+40 process. In this regard, there is an evolving conviction in our organization that establishing trust and confidence through ensuring positive engagement is key to our overall success. With this in mind, we welcome Mr. Mammadyarov to the PC and express our readiness to interact positively with Azerbaijan in the OSCE.

At this stage we would like to react on some points made by the distinguished Minister.

Armenia is more than ready to move beyond the current status quo of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. However, the positive change in the settlement process requires certain efforts from all parties to the conflict. First, parties should refrain from confrontational positioning towards each other. Second they should be constructively engaged with the international mediators, the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs. Third they should implement already reached commitments.

Armenia's engagement in the negotiation process meets these requirements. First Armenia does not exert pressure on negotiation process by bellicose statements and war threats.

Second, Armenia does not cast doubts on good faith and effectiveness of mediators. On many occasions Armenia has been stressing its readiness to embark on the settlement process in line with the all statements made by the presidents of Co-Chair countries in L'Aquila, Muskoka, Deauville and Los Cabos.

Third, Armenia is ready to implement all commitments made within in the OSCE MC and the trilateral framework namely March 5, 2011 and January 23, 2012 Sochi joint statements between Presidents of Armenia, Russian Federation and Azerbaijan. Accelerating the endorsement of basic principles remains essential in leading the process towards a positive outcome. Basic principles will provide the framework for the conflict resolution identifying mutual compromises. Principles should be adopted in their entirety without privileging any of them. On numerous occasions, Armenia highlighted the recognition of the right of the people of Nagorno-

Karabakh to self-determination as a principle indispensable to the progress in conflict resolution.

Having said this, we will leave to the Azerbaijani side to determine its readiness to fulfill these requirements aimed at ensuring continued progress in the settlement.

What we would like to stress here it is the inadmissibility of escalation on the ground. Our response to escalation has always been the willingness to accept various proposals on confidence building measures put forward by the Co-Chairs such as withdrawal of snipers and the establishment of an investigative mechanism into possible cease-fire violations.

Rejecting these proposals does not send a message of readiness to resolve the issue by peaceful means.

Likewise, linking confidence building measures with the implementation of certain actions envisaged by the basic principles is not a genuine excuse.

In our view, efforts towards reconciliation between societies and confidence building measures may create an atmosphere for mutual respect, acceptance and hence lead to a better environment for compromises.

We think that after almost twenty years since the end of the military stage of the conflict our societies are more than ready for peace. We took note of the growing calls for reconciliation in the Azerbaijani society, as well as the actions being taken by Azerbaijani authorities towards eminent persons advocating peace and reconciliation with the immediate neighbors.

In our view, the OSCE can offer important toolbox for launching important reconciliation initiatives.

Armenia made clear on highest level that the settlement of Nagorno-Karabakh issue should be based on the respect of universal human rights. Thus greater respect and promotion of human rights in the region is essential. In our view, the OSCE and its field missions can greatly contribute towards enhancing the democratic profile of the countries in the region.

In conclusion, we hope that the joint meeting at the Ministerial level in Krakow will create a positive momentum in the NK settlement.

Thank you.