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

Statement

**In Response to the Delegation of France on behalf of the Delegations of the Minsk Group
Co-Chair Countries
delivered by the Permanent Delegation of Armenia at the 1135th Meeting of the OSCE
Permanent Council
March 02, 2017**

Mr. Chairman,

We took note of the statement of the Delegation of France on behalf of the Delegations of the Minsk Group Co-Chair countries. We appreciate clear call of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs on the necessity to maintain the ceasefire regime, established by the 1994 and 1995 tripartite ceasefire agreements and to implement agreements, reached at Vienna and St. Petersburg summits on creating investigative mechanism into ceasefire violations and enhancing capacities of the PRCiO Office. The failed incursion of the Azerbaijani subversive group illustrates the urgency of implementation of the above agreements without delay.

One little correction: The NK side in line with its commitments under international humanitarian law agreed to let Azerbaijani side to retrieve the bodies of its five servicemen from neutral zone. The Azerbaijani propaganda portrayed the above incidents as attempt by the NK Defence Army units to penetrate into the Azerbaijani positions. In an attempt to hide the reality from its public opinion the Prosecutor-General's Office has prohibited the Azerbaijani media to refer or anyhow use the above information of the NK side. It is worth mentioning that the NK side was first to disclose the names of the Azerbaijani military servicemen killed in the action, while the Azerbaijani side was hiding even that information for several days.

As for references to the UN SC resolutions we encourage the Azerbaijani side to discuss their implementation with the authorities of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, which was recognized as party to the conflict by the same resolutions.

Ambassador of Azerbaijan referred to agreement on enhancing capacities of the PRCiO Office. We would like to stress in this regard that Azerbaijan was the only OSCE participating State, which didn't join consensus on the proposal of the OSCE previous German Chairmanship to enhance the capacities of the PRCiO. Moreover on later stage Azerbaijan refused to enhance those capacities in the conflict zone by putting forward its own draft decision. We leave it to the delegations of participating States to judge, who is to blame for failure to implement agreements reached in Vienna and St. Petersburg.

Thank you.