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

Statement

**On Non-Implementation of Commitments on Non-Use of Force by Azerbaijan
delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 1112nd Meeting of the
OSCE Permanent Council
September 07, 2016**

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the non-implementation of commitments on non-use of force by Azerbaijan.

Unconditional adherence to non-use of force or threat of use of force is key precondition for substantive political talks on any security related issue in the OSCE area, including conflict settlement.

The April preplanned large-scale military offensive of Azerbaijan against Nagorno-Karabakh, accompanied by atrocities and gross violations of the international humanitarian law was not merely another escalation of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, but a serious challenge to common security and stability of the whole OSCE region. This military adventurism seriously threw back the process of resolution of the conflict.

Despite the calls of international community to adhere to the ceasefire regime established by 1994 and 1995 agreements and halt the hostilities and return to the negotiation table, Azerbaijan continues to resort to regular military actions along the Line of Contact. There were average 34 ceasefire violations daily in August and 42 in the first week of August.

Four months have passed since the meeting of the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan in Vienna and three months since the last summit at the presidential level in St-Petersburg. These meetings resulted in adoption of concrete commitments on full adherence to the 1994 and 1995 trilateral ceasefire agreements, which don't have time limitations, expansion of the PRCiO Office and creation of investigative mechanism into ceasefire violations.

However, so far Azerbaijan has rejected to implement these commitments, which puts under the question its credibility as a partner in negotiations. Moreover, its unconstructive stance clearly indicates that Azerbaijan continues to rely on the policy of forceful solution of the NK conflict and therefore is not interested in measures aimed at consolidation of the ceasefire regime. Such a policy is a major impediment to the advancement of process of peaceful resolution of the NK conflict. Attempts of using force as an instrument of pressure on the political negotiations, if not adequately

addressed and condemned by the international community, may lead to serious destabilization with unpredictable consequences for the entire region.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Azerbaijani delegation today repeated its usual mantras on so-called illegal economic activities in Nagorno-Karabakh.

On September 2 the people of Nagorno-Karabakh marked the 25th anniversary of the adoption of Declaration of Independence of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. These years were marked by significant progress in development of democratic state institutions, strengthening of the rule of law, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and building of market economy.

The people of Nagorno-Karabakh are entitled to all human rights including right to life, right to development, and other political, cultural and economic rights which have been established by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UN Covenants and elementary norms of civilized world.

The international law does not envisage reprisals including economic, cultural and humanitarian blockade against any people based on the conflict perception of one member state. The UN Security Council has never sanctioned any measure against authorities and population of Nagorno-Karabakh and thus the efforts to isolate population of Nagorno-Karabakh from international community are not legal.

The attempt of Azerbaijan to define criminal all economic, social, cultural and humanitarian activities of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh aims at further violating individual and collective human rights and thus should be unequivocally condemned. Azerbaijan is not entitled to inflict collective punishment on the entire people through impeding their economic, cultural and humanitarian contacts with the international community.

The international instruments such as UN Covenant on Political and Civil Rights and UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights empower people to pursue their economic, social and cultural development by the virtue of the right to self-determination. The UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by its Article 1.2 establishes that “All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence”

Azerbaijan itself has recognized that the equal rights and self-determination of peoples should be among the principles of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict resolution during the OSCE Athens Ministerial Council and thus denying rights of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh to economic and cultural development is contradictory in this regard.

Thank You.