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

Statement

**On Use of Force by Azerbaijan against the Right to Self-Determination of the
People of Nagorno-Karabakh
delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 1114th Meeting of the OSCE
Permanent Council
October 04, 2016**

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the continued policy of use of force by Azerbaijan against the people of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Azerbaijani side continued to violate the ceasefire regime along the Line of Contact between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan and the Armenian-Azerbaijani state border. One of the incidents resulted in death of Sevak Khachatryan, serviceman of the NK Defense Army on September 25.

There is a certain feature of the current actions of the Azerbaijani armed forces and that is the attempt to make it impossible to pursue any economic activities in the NK borderline settlements. As a result, the harvest in number of settlements in Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia has been severely impeded and undermined. This is particularly the case of the Talish settlement whose population was a subject of atrocities during the April offensive of Azerbaijani armed forces.

The above incidents alongside with continuous rejection by the highest Azerbaijani leadership of the very existence of civilian population in Nagorno-Karabakh indicate that the Azerbaijani Government consistently pursues policy of all types of warfare including economic one in order to expel the people of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Mr. Chairperson,

This year we had extensive discussions in the HDIM on the role of OSCE as a regional organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter in promoting individual and collective human rights contained in the UN Covenants. The legally binding UN Covenant on Political and Civil Rights and UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, are the cornerstones of the international human right law, empower people to pursue their economic, social and cultural development by the virtue of the right to self-determination. Furthermore, it recognizes that all peoples may for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources. It maintained that in no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.

What Azerbaijan is trying to do is exactly what unequivocally rules out the Covenant: deprivation of people of Nagorno-Karabakh of their means of subsistence.

The attempt to go after and punish everyone who is involved in any economic interaction with the people of Nagorno-Karabakh cannot be productive for a country who has never exercised its jurisdiction over Nagorno-Karabakh particularly now at the post oil age of existence, as defined by Azerbaijan itself. If it is still possible to silence and imprison dissenting voices in the own society under the charges of illegal economic activities it does not mean that Azerbaijan will be able to employ same approach in putting the entire population of Nagorno-Karabakh under the medieval siege.

We condemn the attempts to criminalize the entire population of Nagorno-Karabakh and impede their economic, social, cultural and humanitarian contacts. Armenia will always stand behind the people of Nagorno-Karabakh to ensure that they are not deprived of their means of subsistence.

Any economic issue in the conflict areas should be addressed through de escalation and confidence building measures.

Under the current circumstances the only way forward is to implement agreements reached in the Vienna and St. Petersburg Summits including on strengthening the OSCE presence in the conflict area and we call Azerbaijan to do so.

Thank You.