

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Ministerial Council Helsinki 2008 MC.DOC/1/08 5 December 2008

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Sixteenth Meeting

MC(16) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

We welcome the constructive and positive momentum in the peace process for the political settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict established after the two meetings of the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan in 2008, in Saint Petersburg on June 6, and especially in Moscow on November 2.

The Moscow Declaration signed by the Presidents of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia opened a promising phase in the process of settling the conflict. We strongly encourage the sides in their aspiration to intensify efforts in the negotiation process, in accordance with the provisions of the Moscow Declaration and in co-ordination with the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, to further elaborate the Basic Principles proposed in Madrid on November 29, 2007 and then begin drafting a comprehensive Peace Agreement. We highly appreciate their intention to develop confidence building measures and to consolidate the ceasefire.