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**STATEMENT BY MR. DIDIER GONZALEZ,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE, AT THE
MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 May 2010

Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of France, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, I should like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the press release issued on 24 May by the three co-chairpersons of the Minsk Group distributed on 25 May as document SEC.PR/197/10.

“The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs took note that so-called parliamentary elections took place in Nagorno-Karabakh on May 23, 2010.

Although the Co-Chairs understand the need for the de facto authorities in NK to try to organize democratically the public life of their population with such a procedure, they underscore again that Nagorno-Karabakh is not recognized as an independent and sovereign state by any of their three countries, nor by any other country, including Armenia.

The Co-Chairs consider that this procedure should not preempt the determination of the final legal status of Nagorno-Karabakh in the broader framework of the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict”.

Thank you for your attention.