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

Statement

in response to the Minsk Group Co-Chairmen Ambassadors Igor Popov, Jacques Faure, and James Warlick and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk

delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 971th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

November 14, 2013

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to warmly welcome the Co-Chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group Ambassadors Igor Popov, Jacques Faure and James Warlick and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk to the Permanent Council and thank them for their comprehensive reports. As this is the first appearance of Ambassador James Warlick in the Permanent Council we would like to extend our special welcome to him.

We would like to express our appreciation of the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chair countries – Russian Federation, France and the United States to advance the peaceful resolution of Nagorno Karabakh conflict that was manifested once again in their joint statement of Enniskillen on 18 June.

We would like to believe, that the upcoming summit of the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan will pave a way for negotiations process towards the peaceful resolution of the conflict.

In this regard I would like to recall Joint Declaration adopted by the Presidents of Armenia, Russian Federation and Azerbaijan on January 23, last year in Sochi, where parties agreed to accelerate the adoption of the Basic Principles. I would like to underline, that as it was stressed by the Presidents of three co-chairs countries in Enniskillen, elements of the Basic Principles should be seen as an integrated whole, as any attempt to select some elements over others would make it impossible to achieve a balanced solution.

I would also like to make reference to reached agreement, reflected in the joint statements of the Russian, Armenian and Azerbaijani Presidents in Sochi, in March 2011 and January 2012 on the creation of mechanism on investigation of incidents along the cease-fire line. Its practical implementation could contribute to the

consolidation of cease-fire, prevent deplorable incidents and cease-fire violations and create favorable conditions in the negotiation process.

Armenia will continue its efforts towards the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict exclusively through peaceful means and on the basis of the purposes, principles and norms reflected in the UN Charter and the provisions of L'Aquila, Muskoka, Deauville, Los Cabos and Enniskillen statements of the three Co-Chair countries' Presidents, as well as statements on Nagorno-Karabakh peaceful settlement, adopted in the framework of the OSCE Ministerial Councils in Helsinki, Athens, Almata, Vilnius, Dublin.

While Armenia values the three Co-Chairs' efforts for the continuation of the negotiating process and preservation of peace, unfortunately we witness continuous Azerbaijani campaign against the Minsk Group Co-Chairs which have the mandate of OSCE as the only negotiating format for the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Even here in Vienna, there are attempts to denigrate Co-Chairs' efforts to find a negotiated solution.

In spite of the efforts of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and his team to not allow the escalation of the situation on the ground, the Azerbaijani side makes continuous attempts to weaken his Office.

We reaffirm our support to the Minsk Group co-Chairmen Ambassadors Igor Popov, Jacques Faure, and James Warlick and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk.

Thank You.