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

ENGLISH only

**Statement
In response to Ambassador Günther Bächler,
Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office for the South Caucasus
delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 1004th Meeting of the
OSCE Permanent Council**

June 09, 2016

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to warmly welcome Ambassador Günther Bächler, Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office for the South Caucasus.

We value the efforts of the OSCE German Chairmanship to contribute towards the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. In this regard we would like to particularly stress continuous support of the Chairmanship to the Minsk Group Co-Chairs, the only international mediation format agreed by all sides of the NK conflict.

The Office of the PRCiO, as the only OSCE permanent presence in the NK conflict zone, is an important mechanism at disposal of the Organization, when it comes to streamlining efforts aimed at promoting confidence and security building measures. We are pleased to note that Ambassador Bächler contributed to the activities of the Office by participating in its monitoring activities, so far the only confidence building measure, which is applied in practice.

We fully endorse the position of the German Chairmanship, on the need to expand the PRCiO Office and to establish an OSCE investigative mechanism into ceasefire violations, as it was agreed during the last meeting at the level of Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan, held in Vienna with the participation of the Minsiters of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair Countries.

We encourage Ambassador Bächler to continue his efforts aimed at contributing to the activities of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the PRCiO Office. As far as the other contacts are concerned, certain distinction between mediators and those who need mediators themselves to talk to the parties of the conflict is needed.

Thank You.