



**Statement
at the 642nd meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
December 14, 2006**

PC.DEL/1169/06
15 December 2006

ENGLISH only

Mr. Chairman,

On December 10th, a so-called “*constitutional referendum*” was held in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. In this regard, I would like to refer to the Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which has already been distributed at the OSCE on December 2, and once again express the position of my Government.

So-called “*constitutional referendum*” held by the illegal military regime established by the Republic of Armenia in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan violates the Constitution of Azerbaijan, as well as relevant norms and principles of international law, and interferes with an ongoing peace process. This counterproductive and provocative act and its results shall have no legal effect and shall not mislead the international community, which is well aware of the occupation and appalling ethnic cleansing carried out by the Armenian armed forces against Azerbaijani population in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Any constitutional document envisaging a self-rule for the population of the Nagorno-Karabakh region can only be elaborated through a legal, democratic and peaceful process with a full, equal and direct participation of the entire population of the region consisting of the Armenian and Azerbaijani communities. There is no alternative to finding solution in the framework of territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijani population should return in safety and dignity to their places of origin in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Azerbaijan shall never accept such illegal acts of the Armenian side, which are based on notorious practice of fait accompli and fully contradict the ongoing efforts to bring durable peace and stability to the region.

Mr. Chairman,

The GUAM Council of Ministers also adopted the statement in its Brussels meeting where they condemned this illegal act.

My Government welcomes the statements of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Co-Chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group, the European Union, as well as the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and statements of other OSCE participating states, which expressed their strong and principled position in this regard.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.