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

Statement

**On the Joint Statement of the Presidents of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair States
delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 918th Meeting of the OSCE
Permanent Council
June 21, 2012**

Mr. Chairperson,

Armenia highly appreciates the efforts of the Heads of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair states - the Presidents of the United States, the Russian Federation and the French Republic, aimed at the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The joint statement adopted in Los Cabos by Presidents Barack Obama, Vladimir Putin, and François Hollande is the fourth document issued by the Heads of the Co-Chair countries on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict which may serve an impetus for the negotiation process.

Armenia is unanimous with the Co-Chair countries in their resolute commitment to achieve an exclusively peaceful settlement of the issue.

We also regret that despite the call in the Deauville statement, progress was not achieved at the Kazan Summit on June 24, given the well-known position of one party to the conflict on which my delegation elaborated after the Kazan summit.

Staying committed to the already reached agreements, reflected in the joint statement of Sochi made by the Presidents of Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan on January 23, Armenia will continue its efforts aimed at the endorsement of the Basic Principles of the conflict settlement.

Along with the Co-Chair countries, we have repeatedly called to respect the ceasefire agreement of May 1994 and to abstain from hostile rhetoric and invited the attention of the Permanent Council to the recent flagrant violations of the ceasefire.

Armenia accepted the proposals of the Co-Chair countries aimed at the consolidation of the ceasefire regime, namely withdrawal of snipers and creation of an investigative mechanism into ceasefire violations and incidents.

Armenia has on numerous occasions reiterated its readiness to continue the negotiations on the basis of the statements of the Heads of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair states adopted in L'Aquila, Muskoka and Deauville.

We add to this the recent Los Cabos statement and expect that Azerbaijan will express similar readiness and will also accept the above-mentioned proposals of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs.

We are convinced that full use of the assistance of mediators, Minsk Group Co-Chairs, can bring all parties closer to peace and reconciliation towards negotiated outcome of the conflict resolution.

Thank you.