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**STATEMENT BY
THE CO-CHAIRMEN OF THE OSCE MINSK GROUP AT THE
1041st MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

26 February 2015

On behalf of the three Minsk Group Co-Chair countries, France wishes to read the statement by the Co-Chairmen of 20 February 2015:

The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (Ambassadors Igor Popov of the Russian Federation, James Warlick of the United States of America, and Pierre Andrieu of France) travelled to the region from 16 to 19 February. They were joined by the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk.

The Co-Chairs met with the Presidents, Foreign Ministers, and Defence Ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia, as well as the *de facto* authorities in Nagorno-Karabakh. The main purpose of the Co-Chairs' visit was to appeal to the parties to strictly adhere to the ceasefire after a dangerous rise in violence in January.

In their discussions with the Co-Chairs, the parties confirmed their commitment to a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The Presidents also agreed to consider proposals from the Co-Chairs that could strengthen the ceasefire.

The Co-Chairs discussed with the Presidents and Foreign Ministers the next steps towards a settlement, as well as preparations for a future presidential meeting later this year.

While in the region, the Co-Chairs met representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to discuss issues related to persons who were missing as a result of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. They noted the importance of the agreement reached during the Presidential Summit in Paris in October 2014 to exchange information on missing persons under the auspices of the ICRC.