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

ENGLISH only

Statement

**On the Situation on the Line of Contact between Nagorno-Karabakh and
Azerbaijan and the Armenian-Azerbaijani state border
delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 1111st Meeting of the OSCE
Permanent Council
July 28, 2016**

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the recent developments on the Line of Contact between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan.

Despite the calls of international community to adhere to the ceasefire regime established by 1994 and 1995 agreements and halt the hostilities and return to the negotiation table, Azerbaijan continues to resort to military actions along the Line of Contact.

I would like to refer to the Press-Release of the Ministry of Defense of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, according to which the ceasefire violations by the Azerbaijani armed forces in the southeastern direction of the Line of Contact resulted in one killed and one wounded servicemen of the NK Defense Army.

The Azerbaijani armed forces also continued deliberate shelling of the borderline settlements along the Armenian-Azerbaijani state border and the LoC. The Azerbaijani military deliberately targeted football field of the school in the village of Movses in the north-east of Armenia at the very moment of children play. The Azerbaijani units also regularly shell the agricultural areas of the Talish village in Martakert region of NK with the aim to impede farming. Let me remind you that Talish was the most affected settlement during April large scale military offensive of Azerbaijan wherein massive destruction and atrocities took place. Apparently the current action of Azerbaijani armed forces aimed at impeding the return of population to their homes.

Last night in the vicinity of Talish village Azerbaijani armed forces shelled from rocket propelled grenade.

Mr. Chairperson,

More than two months passed since the meeting of the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan in Vienna and more than one month passed since the last summit at the presidential level in St-Petersburg. As colleagues are aware, these meetings resulted in adoption of concrete and clear-cut commitments reflected also in the

outcome statements on expansion of the PRCiO Office and creation of investigative mechanism into ceasefire violations.

However, so far there is no progress in this direction due to unconstructive stance of the Azerbaijani side. Such a policy is a major impediment to the advancement of process of peaceful resolution of the NK conflict

Mr. Chairperson,

Earlier today Azerbaijani delegation labeled socio-economic development of Nagorno-Karabakh as illegal economic activities. The people of Nagorno-Karabakh are entitled to all human rights, including right to life, right to development, and other political, cultural and economic rights, which have been established by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UN Covenants and elementary norms of civilized world.

According to Azerbaijani position, since the people of Nagorno-Karabakh does not recognize sovereignty of Azerbaijan and exercised the right of self determination more than two decades ago, they should be deprived of all means of existence, and everything they do is illegal in nature, starting from birth. I do not exaggerate here. The Azerbaijani report labels as illegal increase of birth rate in Stepanakert.

Any issues related to the economic and environmental situation in conflict areas should be dealt in the OSCE in the context of confidence building measures and Armenia is ready to support any constructive proposal in this regard.

Thank You.