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

Statement

On the Escalation of Situation along the Line of Contact between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan
delivered by the Permanent Delegation of Armenia at the 1133rd Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
February 09, 2017

Mr. Chairman,

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

According to the Press Release of Nagorno-Karabakh Ministry of Defence on February 7, during the period from 5 p.m. to 6:50 p.m., the Azerbaijani armed forces directly violated the ceasefire regime, by shelling the military positions of the NK Defence Army in the eastern direction of NK. The Azerbaijani armed forces used D-44 type artillery of 85 mm. and mortars of different calibers, located in close vicinity of their settlements. Overall 47 shells were fired.

The armed provocation followed the monitoring exercise by the PRCiO on the Line of Contact, during which the Azerbaijani side denied the access of the mission members to its frontline positions.

The situation since last week, when we raised the issue of attempted armed incursion of the Azerbaijani subversive group continues to remain tense. New armed provocations by Azerbaijan resulted in the killing of two servicemen of the NK Defence Army Gor Gareginyan and Gegham Manukyan, as well as wounding of serviceman Koryun Kirakosyan.

Mr. Chairman,

The entire responsibility for the recent ceasefire violations and caused casualties falls on the Azerbaijani leadership, which continues undermining of the ceasefire regime, established by the 1994 and 1995 tripartite ceasefire agreements and meantime denying proper monitoring and verification of the ceasefire.

We call on Azerbaijan to honour its commitments on non-use of force and implement agreements of Vienna and St. Petersburg Summits on establishment of an OSCE investigative mechanism and enhancement of the PRCiO capacities.

Thank you.