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

Statement
by Ambassador Ashot Hovakimian
as delivered at the 802nd (Special) meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
8 of April 2010

Mr. Chairman,

First of all I would like to join others and welcome distinguished Secretary General of the United Nations and thank him for his comprehensive statement. I have to say that it was not our intention to take the floor since we were supposed to align ourselves with the EU statement which has been delivered few minutes ago. It is to say that what has been underlined in that statement almost corresponded to our position and perception on the subject under the discussion. However we had no time to submit to our authorities' for consideration last minute changes that appeared in that statement, therefore Armenia's alignment to that statement is pending.

Thus, I take the floor to make short comments and to react briefly to some specific points concerning the issue of Nagorno Karabakh raised by the delegation of Azerbaijan in its statement.

Since 1992, the OSCE has been providing a negotiation framework for the settlement of Nagorno-Karabakh issue, and we believe that this organization has enough capacity to maintain its lead in the negotiation process. The OSCE is the only intergovernmental regional organization which has a unique experience and vast institutional memory concerning the settlement of this dispute.

In an attempt to misinterpret the essence of the conflict and of the ongoing negotiations, Azerbaijan continues to abuse the idea of cooperation between the UN and the OSCE, thus demonstrating its unwillingness and non-readiness to achieve a peaceful settlement based on the compromises.

And here let me assure you, distinguished Secretary General that Armenia fully shares your assertion that human rights and fundamental freedom of people should be in the center of international relations. And as it was mentioned, it is especially important to address human rights violations and subsequently ensure full application of principles of fundamental human rights in conflict affected areas, and in case of Nagorno Karabakh conflict resolution of the principle of self determination of people.

On General Assembly resolution referred to by the Azerbaijani representative. It is known that the resolution was put to a vote in 2008 without any consultations held

among the parties concerned. Without discussions and deliberations this or any resolution cannot be implemented simply because it had unapologetically ignored the fundamental principles of the UN.

That resolution was a wasted attempt to predetermine the outcome of the peace talks. That was not how responsible members of the international community are expected to conduct the difficult but rewarding mission of bringing peace and stability to our peoples, our regions and the world. The Co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, the fair-minded and responsible mediators in NK conflict had found that this resolution does not help the peace talks.

The purpose of Azerbaijan in 2008 was never to encourage or facilitate discussion. It was simply a way for Azerbaijan to get a piece of paper where their wishful and unrealistic outcomes are listed. If the intention truly was to contribute to the success of the ongoing negotiations, Azerbaijan would put its energy and seriousness into the existing OSCE Minsk Group negotiation format, rather than trying to introduce resolutions in New York or elsewhere.

We are hopeful that a necessary degree of political will from Azerbaijan that is denunciation of the war as an option, as well as rejection of war propaganda and incitement of hatred towards Armenia and Armenians will eventually be demonstrated in order to bring the process to its successful completion.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.