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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

Statement

**In Response to the Statement by the Russian Federation
as Delivered by the Delegation of Armenia
at the 1436th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**

27 July 2023

We thank the delegation of the Russian Federation for raising the current issue on the recent trilateral meeting between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

We carefully followed the statement and with regard to the information provided would like to make the following preliminary comments.

The meeting in Moscow allowed to continue the discussions held in Brussels and Washington on the normalization of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan and issues related to the rights and security of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Delegation of Armenia once again warned about the disastrous humanitarian situation created in Nagorno-Karabakh by Azerbaijan as a result of illegal blockade of the Lachin Corridor. The Armenian side underlined that the imposed blockade by Azerbaijan is in stark violation with the Trilateral statement of 9 November 2020 as well as blatantly disregards the binding orders by the International Court of Justice in this regard. We also expect the Russian peacekeeping contingent to ensure the communication between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia as well as the free movement of citizens, vehicles and cargo in both directions along the Lachin Corridor in line with the Trilateral statement of 9 November 2020.

The Armenian side underscored that the further deterioration of the situation on the ground in Nagorno-Karabakh risks to seriously harm the ongoing negotiation process and undermine the efforts. The opening of the Lachin Corridor has no alternative. The challenges faced by the Nagorno-Karabakh population currently vividly points to the policy of ethnic cleansing implemented by Azerbaijan.

With regard to the rights and security of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh, the Armenian side stressed the imperative of international guarantees. In this context Stepanakert-Baku dialogue within the international mechanism was also emphasized. The security guarantees should be carefully drafted so as to prevent the de-Armenization of Nagorno-Karabakh. Those guarantees should be tailor made, address the existing challenges, while taking into account the history and root-causes of the conflict - both in Soviet times and during succeeding 30 years.

Colleagues,

Issues related to delimitation were also on the agenda of Moscow discussions. Armenia underscored the necessity of the delimitation process in accordance with the maps of the 1975 USSR General Staff and the Almaty Declaration of 1991.

The Armenian side once again reassured about the interest of Armenia to the issues related to the unblocking of regional transport and communication links based on the sovereignty and national jurisdiction of the countries and according to the principles of equality and reciprocity. Not only these principles should be clearly reflected on the paper but they should also be effectively enacted.

In closing, we would like to thank the Russian Federation for its efforts and for the organization of the meeting in Moscow.

Thank you.