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**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR FRANÇOIS ALABRUNE,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE
TO THE OSCE, AT THE MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

26 January 2012

Regarding the Sochi Summit

As a co-chairing State of the Minsk Group, France welcomes the joint declaration by the presidents of the Russian Federation, the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan adopted on 23 January in Sochi. We reaffirm our deep appreciation of the engagement in the mediation efforts shown by President Medvedev and the Russian Federation as a co-chairing State of the Minsk Group.

The French co-chairman, Ambassador Jacques Faure, represented France at the Sochi Summit. France remains firmly committed to a peaceful resolution of the conflict and will continue to work actively together with the other co-chairmen of the Minsk Group and the parties to the settlement process and will contribute to the implementation of confidence-building measures so as to improve the atmosphere at the negotiations and to consolidate the ceasefire.