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

Statement
Regarding the Sochi Summit
delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 899th Meeting of the OSCE
Permanent Council
January 26, 2012

Mr. Chairman,

First my delegation would like to express the gratitude of the Armenian side to the President of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev for organizing the Summit in Sochi on January 23, 2012.

We are also thankful to Ambassador Kelin for presenting here the outcome of the Summit including the Joint Declaration of the Presidents of Armenia, Russian Federation and Azerbaijan.

Armenia welcomes the fact that in the Joint Declaration the parties committed themselves to expedite the process of reaching understanding with regard to the Basic Principles based on previously undertaken work.

It is important that the parties reiterated the agreement reached in March 2011 Sochi Summit on the investigative mechanism into possible cease-fire violations and discussed with the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office the implementation of this agreement.

Armenia has been consistently advocating the introduction of confidence building measures in all dimensions. People to people contacts involving various representatives of intellectual, scientific and social circles may produce good results if they generate trust towards peaceful settlement of the conflict. Any misuse of the humanitarian contacts for political purposes aiming at introducing new and unacceptable elements in negotiating process or intensifying war rhetoric will discredit the very essence of confidence building.

We would like to stress the indispensable role of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, namely United States, France and Russian Federation in finding lasting solution to the NK conflict and we are glad to note that this position of the parties has been fully reflected in the Joint Declaration.

In conclusion, we regret that the statement just made by the delegation of Azerbaijan contradicts the spirit of the Sochi Joint Declaration. The mixed messages are not helpful in improving the climate of negotiations.

Thank you.