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PC.DEL/194/11
9 March 2011

**Statement by the Delegation of Azerbaijan
at 852nd Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
3 March 2011**

ENGLISH only

Mr. Chairman,

We have carefully listened to the presentation of Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia. His presence here happens on the eve of upcoming tripartite meeting of presidents of Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation to be held in Sochi, Russia, to be held in just two days.

To our deepest disappointment, we saw today Minister using his address on the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict to poison the atmosphere before the upcoming meeting in Sochi.

Let us reiterate that Azerbaijan expressed his readiness to undertake all necessary measures, on the basis of the norms and principles of the international law, in particular in accordance with the provisions of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, to agree on a model of self-governance within the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan securing the rights of both communities (Azerbaijani and Armenian) that will live in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

In accordance with the model that Co-Chairs are discussing with the parties, the status of the region should be defined in the future, for which the appropriate objective conditions must be established. These objective conditions comprise such elements as liberation of territories, return of population, restoration of territories and opening of communications, at the same time defining an interim status that will secure equal rights for Armenians living currently in and for Azerbaijanis that will return to the Nagorno Karabakh region.

Unfortunately, Armenia has no intention to act on this basis. The mentioned elements of the conflict settlement and the compromise balance of measures and steps to be implemented in step-by-step manner being in a logically connected sequence are violated by the attempts of Armenia to continue

occupation some of territories and prevent the return of Azerbaijanis to the Nagorno Karabakh region.

Let us make clear once again that in return of withdrawal from the occupied territories, Armenia will gain huge economic advantages. It would get opportunity to establish economic cooperation with Azerbaijan, the routes are opened and communications are restored, the interim status is defined ensuring the rights for the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh.

Let us stress here that the Nagorno Karabakh region cannot remain mono-ethnic as a result of ethnic cleansing. It is unacceptable. Roads cannot remain exceptionally under the control of one side. Armenia, which occupied the territories of Azerbaijan, cannot act as a guarantor for the security in the Nagorno Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

At the same time, based on international commitments, Azerbaijan can guarantee the security of the Armenians in Nagorno Karabakh, international peacekeeping forces may be deployed for the necessary period of time. In the next stage, security of population will be ensured in the situation of peace and cooperation within the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

With regard to updated version of Madrid Document of basic principles, let me remind that it was submitted to Azerbaijan and Armenia by OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs in December 2009 and January 2010 respectively. We gave our principal consent to that proposal of the Minsk Group a long ago while President Sargsyan rejected it at Sochi meeting of January 2010.

We have also taken note of the coverage by Minister Nalbandyan on human rights issues in the context of conflict resolution. It is sounded by high-level representative of a country that deprived of hundreds of thousands of peoples of their native land and property just for one single reason - they were ethnically Azerbaijanis. It is appalling to hear such a lecture on human rights issues by member of a government that made a so-called “ethno-religious Njdehism” a state policy - a move which was condemned even by the Armenian opposition as racism. It is a further alarming invention by Armenia after it made a case for the notorious thesis of “ethnic incompatibility of Azerbaijanis and Armenians”. Given that, it is no surprise that military occupation and ethnic cleansing for Armenia are two sides of the same coin. There is no single Azerbaijani left in the occupied territories. Armenia holds the issue of return of civilians to their homes as hostage to an unacceptable political purpose. This fact alone, not to mention war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Armenia, speaks for itself.

As for Helsinki principles, we really appreciate Minister's reference to those principles, including the principle of refraining from the threat or use of force against integrity or political independence of any State. We take it as an indication that Armenia is finally preparing to terminate its continuing use of force against our territorial integrity.

On this positive note, we look forward to Sochi meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.