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**REPRESENTATION PERMANENTE DE LA FRANCE
AUPRES DE L'O.S.C.E**

Vienna, December, 11th, 2006

"MOSCOW, PARIS, WASHINGTON DC, 12.11.06

STATEMENT OF THE MINSK GROUP CO-CHAIRS ON THE DECEMBER 10 REFERENDUM IN NAGORNO-KARABAKH

THE OSCE MINSK GROUP CO-CHAIRS TOOK NOTE THAT THE AUTHORITIES OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH HELD A REFERENDUM ON DECEMBER 10 ON A DRAFT "CONSTITUTION" OF THE SO-CALLED "NAGORNO-KARABAKH REPUBLIC," WHICH NO MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY - INCLUDING THE CO-CHAIR COUNTRIES - RECOGNIZES AS AN INDEPENDENT STATE. THE CO-CHAIRS DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SUCH A "REFERENDUM" WILL CONTRIBUTE TO A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT. ANY FUTURE LEGAL STATUS OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH SHOULD BE DETERMINED WITHOUT THE THREAT OR USE OF FORCE AND ONLY AS THE RESULT OF POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ALL PARTIES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE MINSK PROCESS. CONDUCTING SUCH A REFERENDUM NOW, THUS PREEMPTING THE FINAL LEGAL STATUS OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH, RATHER THAN FORGING A COMPROMISE IS PARTICULARLY UNHELPFUL AT A MOMENT WHEN THE OSCE MINSK GROUP-MEDIATED NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN APPEAR TO BE ON A CONSTRUCTIVE PATH. THE CO-CHAIRS EXPECT THAT THE RESULTS OF THIS REFERENDUM, WHICH ARE NOT INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED, WILL HAVE NO NEGATIVE EFFECT ON CONTINUING PROSPECTS FOR AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SIDES ON BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT."

"MOSCOU, PARIS, WASHINGTON, 11.12.06

COMMUNIQUE DES CO-PRESIDENTS DU GROUPE DE MINSK SUR LE "REFERENDUM" DU 10 DECEMBRE AU HAUT-KARABAGH.

LES CO-PRESIDENTS DU GROUPE DE MINSK PRENNENT NOTE QUE LES AUTORITES DU HAUT-KARABAGH ONT TENU, LE 10 DECEMBRE, UN REFERENDUM SUR UN PROJET DE " CONSTITUTION " POUR LA REPUBLIQUE AUTO-PROCLAMEE DU HAUT-KARABAGH, QU'AUCUN MEMBRE DE LA COMMUNAUTE INTERNATIONALE, Y COMPRIS LES PAYS CO-PRESIDENTS, NE RECONNAIT EN TANT QU'ETAT INDEPENDANT. LES CO-PRESIDENTS NE CROIENT PAS QUE CE " REFERENDUM " CONTRIBUE AU REGLEMENT NEGOCIE DU CONFLIT DU HAUT-KARABAGH. TOUT STATUT FINAL DU HAUT-KARABAGH DEVRA ETRE DETERMINE SANS MENACE OU USAGE DE LA FORCE, ET UNIQUEMENT AU TERME DE NEGOCIATIONS POLITIQUES ENTRE TOUTES LES PARTIES, DANS LE CADRE DU PROCESSUS DE MINSK. LA CONDUITE DE CE REFERENDUM, QUI PREJUGE DU STATUT JURIDIQUE FINAL DU HAUT-KARABAGH, AU LIEU D'OEUVRER A UN COMPROMIS, EST PARTICULIEREMENT CONTRE-PRODUCTIVE AU MOMENT OU LES NEGOCIATIONS ENTRE L'ARMENIE ET L'AZERBAIDJAN, AVEC LA MEDIATION DU GROUPE DE MINSK DE L'OSCE, PARAISSENT SUIVRE UNE VOIE PROMETTEUSE. LES CO-PRESIDENTS ESPERENT QUE LES RESULTATS DE CE REFERENDUM, QUI NE BENEFICIENT PAS DE LA RECONNAISSANCE INTERNATIONALE, N'AURONT PAS D'EFFET NEGATIF SUR LES PERSPECTIVES D'ACCORD ENTRE LES PARTIES SUR LES PRINCIPES DE BASE POUR LE REGLEMENT DU CONFLIT."