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STATEMENT OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT

We commend the progress achieved in the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in 2004, in particular, the three meetings of the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan under the auspices of the Co-Chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group. We also welcome the creation of the so-called “Prague Process”, through which four meetings between the Foreign Ministers of both countries allowed the methodical re-examination of all the parameters of a future settlement. We note that, building on the results of the “Prague Process”, the Co-Chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group presented to both Presidents in September in Astana a framework that could serve as a basis for a settlement. We invite the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan to take that framework into account and to go forward based on it. We strongly urge the parties to redouble their efforts toward the rapid settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group.