

Statement by Delegation of Armenia

21st Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council

Basel, December 5, 2014

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to thank the Swiss Chairmanship for leading our organization throughout this year. We particularly appreciate efforts of the Chairmanship to steer the Basel Ministerial Council Meeting in a result oriented manner.

Though the current Ministerial Council Meeting highlighted the differences which exist between participating states, but it also showed that, regardless of those differences, we are able to come up with positive agenda of cooperation. The considerable number of important decisions that we have adopted at this Ministerial Council attests to the willingness of participating states to further use the OSCE as an equal platform for dialogue and cooperation in Europe.

In response to the statement of the Azerbaijani delegation, I would like to reiterate several points made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia at this Ministerial Council on the destructive position of Azerbaijan in the peaceful negotiations on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

In contrary to the appeals of the international community, particularly the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, to prepare populations for peace not war, Azerbaijan, including at the top level, has increased bellicose warmongering, anti-Armenian hate speech, glorification of murderers of Armenians and persecution of those journalists, civil society activists, representatives of intelligentsia, who pursue confidence building and reconciliation projects. The more international community is calling to withdraw snipers from the Line of Contact, the more sniper shootings, provocative incidents, subversive acts are coming from the Azerbaijani side, resulting in numerous casualties.

The blatant violation by Azerbaijan of international humanitarian law and rejection to apply it in relation to other parties of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is the best indication of that country's destructive position.

We regret that in its statement the Azerbaijani delegation omits the reference to the equal right and self-determination of peoples among other principles of Helsinki Final Act. It was violent suppression of this right through use of force by Azerbaijan that constituted the underlying cause of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Thank you.