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

Statement

**On Azerrbajjan's further violations of international humanitarian law and
cease- fire**

in response to the remarks of the delegation of Azerbaijan

delivered at the 771st plenary session of the

Forum for Security Co- operation

19 November, 2014

We took note of the statement of the Azerbaijani delegation.

I would like to denounce all accusations brought against Armenia.

I call on the delegation of Azerbaijan to cease its continuous blamings based on groundless and fabricated information and, instead, to engage in a discussion based on proven facts in order to better use the platform of this forum.

Not all the remarks by Azerbaijani delegation are worth to be reacted to, but briefly I would like to address the following:

With regard to the military exercise held by Nagorno Karabakh Republic, I would like to encourage the Azerbaijani side to cooperate with authorities of Nagorno Karabakh Republic. We have a rich toolbox of confidence and security buiding measures at our disposal, including Stabilizing Measures for Localized Crisis Situations, which allows on a Status-neutral basis to verify military information and dispel any concerns.

I would like to note, that unlike Azerbaijan, which is conducting exercises without prior notifications, in compliance with the Vienna Document, on November 6th Armenia distributed F30 notification form about the exercise “Unity 2014”. All details of the exercise are available in the mentioned notification form.

Mr. Chairman,

We strongly condemn the unprovoked shooting down of the helicopter, which was a deliberate military act by Azerbaijan qualifying to be as illegal in terms of violation of

ceasefire in the zone of conflict. We are even more concerned, because the leadership of Azerbaijan awarded the Azerbaijani soldier, who downed the helicopter of the NKR Defense Army.

Furthermore, Azerbaijan is blocking the access of the ICRC mission to the area, where the helicopter was downed and the bodies of deceased pilots remain without due care. Such an outrageous behavior is in contravention to and in violation of the Geneva Convention of 1949 on the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field.

All the mentioned above demonstrates that Baku is not only ignoring the appeals of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries, the international community on non-use of force, consolidation of ceasefire, implementation of confidence-building measures, including the withdrawal of snipers and creation of investigation mechanisms, but is acting contrary to them bearing full responsibility for the escalation of the situation.

Armenia has continuously raised the issues of non-compliance of Azerbaijan with conventional arms control regime and confidence and security building measures, including the 1994 trilateral cease-fire agreement. In 2014 the cease-fire violations have multiplied and intensified in such dangerous forms as subversive activities and infiltration attempts, targeting civilian population and resorting to heavy weaponry. These attempts of Azerbaijani armed forces resulted in unprecedented high number of casualties on all sides and further undermined the negotiation process.

Armenia will continue joint efforts with the Co-chairmen of the OSCE MG aimed the exclusively peaceful resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

Thank you Mr Chairman.