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

Statement

On the Ceasefire Violations by Azerbaijan along the Line of Contact between Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan and the Armenian-Azerbaijani state border delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 1039th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

February 12, 2015

Mr. Chairman,

We took note of the statement of the Minsk Group Co-Chair countries and the report by the Conflict Prevention Centre.

We strongly condemn the provocative actions of Azerbaijan entailing incursions and targeting civilian areas on the Line of Contact between Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan and on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, which resulted in the loss of many lives and sharply raised the tension. We deeply sorrow the lives of the killed young soldiers and civilians.

We would like to recall that the Armenian Delegation has regularly raised the issue of ceasefire violations at the Permanent Council meetings and has also indicated readiness of Armenia to accept proposals aimed at strengthening the ceasefire, including through withdrawal of snipers, creation of investigative mechanism into ceasefire violations and returning to peaceful dialogue.

All the proposals of international mediators, even those agreed at the level of Presidents, were rejected by Azerbaijan. We are convinced that every new casualty harms the peace process and prevents progress in settlement of the conflict.

The time of ambiguity has passed and the international community clearly indicated the source of tension by calling Azerbaijan to observe its commitments to a peaceful resolution of the conflict. In this regard we welcome the press-release of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs, made on January 27, 2015, in which they called on Azerbaijan to observe its commitments to a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. We expect stronger language and unequivocal condmentation of these actions by the OSCE.

It is truly regrettable that Azerbaijan comes up with accusatory language to the OSCE and its executive structures, field operations and negotiation formats. Criticizing

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international community for non-acceptance of its power politics both in foreign and domestic affairs is non-conducive towards any positive outcome.

We can assure the Azerbaijani delegation that the assumption of the Azerbaijani leadership that it can impose its negotiation positions on Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh through use of force and military pressure is a dangerous misperception.

We would like to encourage our Azerbaijani partners to engage in genuine and constructive dialogue in good faith and demonstrate willingness to observe its commitments to a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Thank You.