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**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
1288th Meeting of the Permanent Council,
06 November 2020**

*in response to the Delegation of France
on behalf of OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries*

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to thank the distinguished Ambassador of France for delivering statement on behalf of the Co-chair countries of the OSCE Minsk Group. Our Delegation has already responded to similar statements of the co-chairs and leaders of their countries at the last meeting of the Permanent Council. We also provided our views on recent aggressive actions by Armenia under previous current issue. So I will refrain from repeating our position, focusing instead on some of the key aspects.

Azerbaijan has a solid track-record of pushing for result-oriented substantive negotiations to achieve progress in political resolution of the conflict. To this end, we called for active involvement of the OSCE Minsk Group and none of the members of this group, except Turkey, reciprocated these calls. We call on those states who spoke about the commitments to ceasefire also to implement their own commitments on the basis of peace process as responsible members of the OSCE Minsk Group. We encourage you to restore the ownership of the OSCE over the conflict resolution process, because there are clear problems in the peace process.

The Budapest Summit decision of 1994 strongly endorsed the mediation efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group as a whole and expressed appreciation for the efforts by individual members of the Minsk Group. It established the institution of co-chairmanship of the Minsk Conference to ensure a common and agreed basis for negotiations and to realize full coordination in all mediation and negotiation activities. Thus, the role and mandate of the co-chairs is identified within its precise limits. This mandate never meant to sideline the Minsk Group or to monopolize the process. Unfortunately, this is what is happening and it is happening with a deafening silence of the Minsk Group members.

It is clear that there can be no business as usual. Assumptions, which were guiding the activities of the Co-chairs for years did not work. There is urgent need to bring the conflict resolution process back on track. The UN Security Council resolutions, the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and the decisions and documents of OSCE provide political and legal framework for the resolution of the conflict, define the mandate of the Co-Chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group and identify tasks to be implemented and sequence to be followed. We have communicated our proposals to Co-Chairs, Ambassador Kasprzyk and HLPG. In view of the lack of clarity on OSCE's possible role in the resolution of Armenia-Azerbaijan

conflict, we suggest to separate the budget of the Minsk Process, PR CiO and HLPG from Unified Budget Proposal 2021, as it is the case in other conflict cases.

The Republic of Azerbaijan has demonstrated that the military occupation of the territory of Azerbaijan does not represent a solution and will never produce a political outcome desired by Armenia. Azerbaijan will never reconcile with so-called reality that existed over the last 30 years. Azerbaijan will fully restore its sovereignty and territorial integrity, either through peaceful or politico-military means. In doing so, Azerbaijan implements the UN Security Council resolutions, which were supposed to be implemented by the OSCE as a regional arrangement under chapter VIII of the UN Charter. We have changed the status-quo and created new reality on the ground that everybody will have to reckon with. Azerbaijan liberated from the Armenian occupation most of its occupied territories.

There is still a chance to resolve the conflict by political means and to save lives. Armenia must start to implement the demands of UN Security Council resolutions and withdraw its armed forces from the remaining occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Armenian Prime Minister has to denounce the use of force and to recognize the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan within its international recognized boundaries. Implementation of these steps will be conducive for bringing about peace to the region.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.