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

Statement

On the Parliamentary Elections in Nagorno-Karabakh
delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 1045th Meeting of the OSCE
Permanent Council
March 19, 2015

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the circulated in the OSCE note verbale of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic on the upcoming Parliamentary elections in NK.

The right to vote and form Governments is an alienable human right and no any people should be deprived of this right in the OSCE area. By the virtue of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights people are entitled to enjoy all human rights regardless of the status of their territory. In the OSCE area there is no any other way of forming government but through democratic elections.

The elections of the representatives of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh are essential for the conflict resolution. The Prague Decision of the Committee of Senior Officials dated February 28, 1992 notes the legitimate will of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh to enjoy all their human rights including those contained in the Principles of the Helsinki Final Act. The same decision singles out the authorities of Nagorno-Karabakh among interested parties of conflict resolution. Likewise, the elected authorities of Nagorno-Karabakh are referred as interested party in the March 24, 1992 Helsinki Decision which initiated Minsk Process. Since the beginning of the Minsk Process, the elected representatives of the Nagorno-Karabakh have been involved in the conflict settlement efforts of international mediators.

It should be also recalled that the international mediators acknowledged the need of the Nagorno-Karabakh to form the elected authorities. In the statement dated July 20, 2012 in relation of elections in Nagorno-Karabakh the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs inter alia stressed “The Co-Chairs acknowledge the need for the de facto authorities in NK to try to organize democratically the public life of their population with such a procedure”.

Armenia supports the realization of human rights of the people of NK and we reserve our right to come back to the different aspects of this issue on appropriate occasions.

Thank you.

First Reply

We raise this current issue, because elections in Nagorno-Karabakh are in line with our perception of the settlement of the conflict through full upholding of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulates that in applying the Declaration “...no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty”. As far as rights to vote or participation in the governing bodies are concerned, they are fully enshrined in the article 21 of the Declaration.

The reaction of the Azerbaijani Delegation regarding the exercise by the people of Nagorno-Karabakh of their human rights didn't come as a surprise to us. It goes in line with the attempts of the Azerbaijani side to present Nagorno-Karabakh as a “grey zone” where anarchy and crime are flourishing. The regular conduct of elections in Nagorno-Karabakh comes to prove that such attempts are futile.

Once again, every conflict is unique. As I have stated many times, Nagorno-Karabakh has never been part of independent Azerbaijan. Authorities of Soviet Azerbaijan grossly violated the fundamental rights of the Armenian population of NK and 27 years ago embarked on mass-pogroms, deportations, abolishment of the status of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region and finally, large scale aggression unleashed against Armenian people of NK.

Second Reply

We are disappointed to see negative remarks by delegations of certain participating States, who appear to be parts to certain conflicts. In this regard, we would like to stress that, first, every conflict is unique in its nature and root causes and the simplistic approach to view them through the same prism leads to distortion of the essence of these conflicts. Certain points in the statements of some of our colleagues we hear regularly in the exact way, but in different context.

Thus, drawing parallels between conflicts is unacceptable.