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**JOINT STATEMENT BY  
MR. SERGEY LAVROV, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, MS. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON,  
SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
AND MR. BERNARD CAZENEUVE, JUNIOR MINISTER FOR  
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OF FRANCE, AT THE NINETEENTH  
MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Dublin, 6 December 2012

On the occasion of the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Dublin, we, the heads of the delegations of the States that co-chair the Minsk Group, call on the parties to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh to demonstrate the political will necessary to arrive at a peaceful settlement. As our Presidents stated in Los Cabos on 18 June 2012, the parties should be guided by the Helsinki principles, particularly those relating to the non-use of force or the threat of force, territorial integrity, and equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and the elements of a settlement outlined in our countries' statements at L'Aquila in 2009 and Muskoka in 2010. Recalling the statement by our Presidents in Deauville in 2011, we once again urge the parties to take decisive measures to arrive at a peaceful settlement.

We regret that the hopes for more rapid progress in the peace process expressed in the joint statement by the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan and the President of the Russian Federation in Sochi on 23 January 2012 have not been fulfilled. Instead, the parties have too often sought unilateral advantage in the negotiation process rather than agreement based on mutual understanding. While recognizing the decrease in the number of serious incidents along the line of contact and the border in the last few months, we remind the parties of the need to continue to respect the 1994 ceasefire and that the use of military force will not resolve the conflict. We call on the parties to refrain from actions and statements that encourage hostile sentiments within their populations, and that have increased tensions during the last few months. The leaders of the parties must prepare their populations for the day when they will once again live as neighbours rather than enemies with full respect for each other's culture, history and traditions.

We call on the parties to show greater urgency in the peace process and to work with the Co-Chairs to investigate fully and carefully the ideas presented by them during their visit to the region in November. We welcome the willingness of the ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia to meet jointly with the Co-Chairs in early 2013 to continue these discussions. Our countries remain ready to do everything in their power to assist the parties, but the responsibility for putting an end to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh remains with them.