

**STATEMENT
OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

The Republic of Azerbaijan welcomes the principled and unequivocal position clearly expressed by the international community with regard to the so-called “presidential elections”, held in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 19 July 2007. By reaffirming its unswerving respect for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and rejecting these illegal “elections” the international community has given a clear message to those who try to capitalize on sufferings of Azerbaijani displaced population. Azerbaijan shares concerns of its international partners about negative effect of the illegal “elections” to the ongoing peace process.

Another attempt by the Republic of Armenia to camouflage its annexation policy and occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan ended with a complete and unavoidable failure. With its deeds the Armenian side misleads no one but its own society. The international community is well aware of the situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

The Republic of Azerbaijan shall never accept the fait accompli-based solution, which the Armenian side is trying to impose. The conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan can only be solved on the basis of respect for territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of Azerbaijan, and peaceful coexistence of Armenian and Azerbaijani communities in the Nagorno-Karabakh region within Azerbaijan, fully and equally enjoying benefits of democracy and prosperity.

Azerbaijan expects that after Saint Petersburg’s failure to accept the relevant proposals of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmen the Armenian side will reconsider its approach and take a constructive course.

Azerbaijan once again calls on the Armenian side to cease its destructive policies and instead of wasting the precious time to negotiate in good faith with a view to finding a soonest and durable solution to the conflict.

Baku, July 20, 2007