

Joint Press Statement

Tokyo, 25th November, 2009

- 1. H.E. Mr. Edward Nalbandian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, visited Japan at the invitation of the Government of Japan from November 25 to 27, 2009, and held a meeting with H.E. Mr. Katsuya Okada, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, on November 25. At the meeting, the two Ministers discussed a wide range of issues, including the bilateral relations and international issues of mutual interest.**
- 2. Both sides emphasized the importance of enhancing political dialogue and economic relations between Japan and Armenia, through identifying and encouraging mutually beneficial initiatives in various areas of cooperation. To this end, both sides decided to hold regular bilateral consultations between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries in order to discuss a wide range of issues, including bilateral relations and all aspects of other international issues of common interest.**
- 3. Both sides referred to the importance of enhancing cooperation between the two Parliaments of the two countries.**
- 4. Both sides underlined the importance of contacts between the business circles of the two countries including reciprocal visits in order to facilitate trade and investment between the two countries and expressed their expectations that the business relations would be further strengthened in various fields. The Armenian side appreciated the activities of Japanese companies in Armenia and welcomes the expansion of their presence in Armenia.**
- 5. Both sides shared the view that the strengthening of people-to-people and cultural exchange between the two countries is an important factor in fostering mutual understanding and decided to enhance cooperation in the field of science and education.**
- 6. The Armenian side expressed its gratitude for the Official Development Assistance (ODA) consistently provided by Japan for the economic development of Armenia including the ODA loan of “Yerevan Combined**

Cycle Co-Generation Power Plant Project”, and Grant Assistance for Underprivileged Farmers and the Project for Improvement of Fire Fighting Equipment in Yerevan City, and expressed its expectation for the continuation of the Japanese cooperation.

- 7. Both sides exchanged their views on the efforts to settle the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict within the OSCE Minsk Group process and expressed support for the peaceful solution of the conflict based on the principles and norms of international law, including the principles of non-use of force, territorial integrity, and self-determination of peoples.**
- 8. Both sides exchanged their views on the Armenian-Turkish normalization process. In this respect, the Japanese side welcomed the efforts aimed at normalization of the relations between Armenia and Turkey shown in the signing of Armenian-Turkish protocols in Zurich on October 10, 2009, which would lead to the peace and stability in the region, and underlined the importance of ratification and implementation of the reached agreements.**
- 9. Both sides expressed their expectations for close cooperation at UN bodies and international organizations by maintaining balanced approach for the sake of enduring security, lasting peace and common prosperity in Europe and the Asia-Pacific Region. Both sides further expressed their determination to work together actively for an early realization of the United Nations Security Council reform, including the expansion of both permanent and non-permanent membership. In this regard, the Armenian side reiterated its strong support for Japan’s permanent membership of the Security Council, and in return the Japanese side expressed its deep appreciation for the support.**