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Strasbourg, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020**ALDA's statement on the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan on Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabagh)**

ALDA expresses concern on the situation over Azerbaijani and Artsakh contact zone that turned into a full-scale war since September 27, 2020 and which is now in part solved by the truce and agreement overlooked by Russia and Turkey.

ALDA has been active since years in Armenia to support local democracy and citizens participation and local development. Recently it developed successful projects of sustainable development programs in the North of Armenia, with the support of local partners and the activity of the Local Democracy Agency based in Gyumri.

ALDA recognized the importance of having peace and stability in the southern Caucasus for the inhabitants of these countries and for the strong implications that the conflict has on the whole region and also ultimately in Europe.

It calls for a strong involvement of the various parties involved and in particular to the EU for being an actor of peace and stability and for confirming the role of local democracy and governance as a potential element of development and growth as well as for a stronger engagement of all the international actors involved in the conflict for a full respect of the human rights at the national and international level.

We ask for a strong support to civilians suffering from these conflicts, already immensely affected by the COVID and the precarity of their situation. ALDA confirms being available, with its members and partners to support local democracy and citizens engagement for improving people's life in Armenia and in the broader region.

Based on its extensive expertise of citizens engagement, community dialogue, and local development, gained during 20 years of work in approximative 40 countries, ALDA express it's openness and willingness to contribute at establishment of decentralized dialogue between communities and people to people actions that will increase tolerance and intercultural dialogue in the region.

