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

SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING
Policies and Strategies to Further Promote Tolerance and Non-Discrimination

Closing Statement of the Delegation of Armenia

April 15, 2016

Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to thank the German Chairmanship and ODIHR for organising this important meeting and selecting topic of tolerance and non-discrimination. Our thanks go to distinguished moderators and introducers for shaping the frames of our discussions by their thoughtful presentations.

The topic of the SHDM is pressing nowadays, when intolerance and discrimination constitutes a security threat for the OSCE area. In our statements we presented such a concrete situation, where intolerance, discrimination and hate crimes are a state policy. We highlighted the consequences of negative stereotyping of certain ethnic groups and official promotion of ethnic hatred, such as war crimes and atrocities.

Our delegation also stressed that upholding of fundamental freedoms is crucial to promote tolerance. Dangers of radicalization of youth, emanating from state propaganda were also highlighted. We emphasized that remembrance and education of genocides as a tool for preventing future crimes against humanity.

Regrettably, not always the discourse allowed getting concrete answers to raised specific cases of intolerance and hate crimes. Intolerant speech and simplistic labelling of raised concerns as lie is not a solution to issues of hate crimes, intolerance and discrimination. On the contrary, such behaviour indicates that the concerns raised were valid and relevant.

Finally, we thank the representatives of civil society for their useful inputs to the discussions.

The Delegation of Armenia stands ready to continue cooperation with the ODIHR and the OSCE German Chairmanship in implementation of OSCE commitments in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination

Thank You.