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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT

**in Response to Ambassador Marcel Peško,
Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre**

**delivered by Ambassador Armen Papikyan, Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Armenia at the 1243rd Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
October 10, 2019**

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to join previous speakers and welcome Director of the Conflict Prevention Center Ambassador Marcel Peško to today's Permanent Council meeting, as well as thank him for the report. Since it is Director's last report, I also would also like to express our gratitude to Ambassador Peško for his efforts and for the work done during his tenure.

Indeed, in the face of diverse security challenges that we are countering today, the co-operation and necessity for result oriented dialogue are even more precious and demanded. In that regard, it is our strong believe that the Vilnius decision 3/11 has outlined sufficient framework on the elements of the conflict cycle and we once again reiterate that this framework should be at the heart of the CPC activities. We support the efforts of the CPC to fulfil the role of the OSCE-wide Early Warning Focal Point as we also believe that early warning is a crucial element for conflict prevention.

We fully share your assessments, Director, regarding the vital need for trust and transparency in the OSCE area and welcome your efforts to this end. Confidence building is an extremely important exercise therefore showcasing best practices and pointing to the OSCE documents related to confidence building on a regular basis is essential.

Instead, as you rightly mentioned in your report, we are witnessing militarization and build-ups, which in certain cases have clear and unconcealed offensive intentions. This is something that we have to collectively reflect upon.

We are convinced that the CPC should continue the implementation of SALW assistance projects aimed towards increased transparency and predictability. We encourage the CPC to continue its efforts within its mandate and in accordance with OSCE participating states requests.

Armenia has always been supportive to the CPC role in assisting the programmatic engagement of the OSCE. In this regard, let me underline that CPC is also an important partner in supporting the implementation of the Armenia Co-operation Programme and Armenia is committed to continue its cooperation for the successful implementation of the planned projects. And here I would like to take this opportunity to thank those countries who provided necessary resources for implementation of ACP, and also thank the EU for the support, which was expressed by EU ambassador few minutes ago in his statement. Strong coordination between UN, the EU and OSCE is also important for the effective implementation of projects and avoiding duplication.

Mr. Chairman,

The report also addresses the involvement of the CPC in protracted conflict situations. Here we would like to once again stress that any such involvement should be based on the explicit request by the respective agreed format and consent of the parties to the conflict. Any attempt of interference in the absence of such conditions we consider as inappropriate and unacceptable.

We appreciate the continued support of the CPC to the Personal Representative of the CiO which is the only permanent presence in the conflict area. The expansion of the PRCiO which was agreed is still pending the implementation.

In conclusion, let me wish you Ambassador Peško every success in your future endeavors and thank him once again for the remarkable job carried out during his tenure.

I thank you.