



ԵԱՀԿ-ՈՒՄ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՄՇՏԱԿԱՆ ՆԵՐԿԱՅԱՑՈՒՑՉՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

Statement

**In response to the presentations
by the Chairpersons of the three Committees
as delivered by Ambassador Armen Papikyan,
Permanent Representative of Armenia
at the 1354th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**

10 February 2022

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me to start by congratulating Ambassador Jocelyn Kinnear on her appointment as Chair of the Security Committee and wish her every success in leading the work of the Committee. I would also like to commend the efforts of Ambassador Neil Bush, who professionally steered the work of this Committee during the past challenging years. Let me also thank our colleagues, distinguished Ambassadors Florian Raunig and Anne-Kirsti Karlsen for their efforts and continued dedication in chairing the Economic and Environmental and Human Dimension committees, respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of Armenia attaches great importance to the planning of activities of all three committees. This is particularly important in terms of regular reality checks, which should be aimed at keeping this Organization relevant in the face of existing challenges and crisis situations.

My delegation supports the Polish Chairmanship's priority of keeping cyber security high on the agenda of the Security Committee. We agree that the growing reliance on ICTs and the threats emanating from the use of information technologies for the spread of extremist, terrorist and hate narratives, require sustained and co-ordinated international efforts. Full implementation of OSCE commitments in this field, including the implementation of the confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of ICTs, provide a solid basis for effective action and further strengthening of the OSCE's capacities.

Illicit financial flows, such as money laundering, financing of terrorism and corruption, also pose a serious threat to security in the OSCE area, therefore we very much welcome the inclusion of this topic into the agenda of the Security Committee. We appreciate in particular a separate discussion on the issue of corruption and its links with transnational organized crime. As you know, corruption is a multifaceted problem and manifests itself in many ways, including as a means of funding and sponsoring the transnational organized crime.

Against the backdrop of the instrumentalization of foreign terrorist fighters in the OSCE area of responsibility, we continue to believe that countering terrorism, including the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, should be high on the agenda of the Security Committee. Any activities in this area should be aimed at implementing and strengthening agreed commitments, rather than undermining them.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation supports the work plan as proposed by Ambassador Raunig, Chair of the OSCE Environmental and Economic Committee, in close consultation with the Polish Chairmanship. We hope that the proposed work plan will help unlock the potential of the OSCE's economic and environmental dimension and will contribute to building trust and confidence among participating States through equal and non-discriminatory partnership.

We also hope that the selected topic of the 30th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, namely "Promoting security and stability in the OSCE area through sustainable economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic", will help identify effective recipes for our struggling economies during the times of the COVID-19 pandemic. As for the planned events for the economic and environmental dimension of the OSCE, I would like to draw special attention of the Chairman of the Committee and the OSCE Chairmanship to the issue of selection of keynote speakers. While fully recognizing the right of each participating State to nominate any speaker capable of addressing the topics of our deliberations, we nevertheless believe that having the same speakers on the same recurring topics for two or three consecutive years brings no added value to our deliberations or to this Organization.

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me also thank Ambassador Karlsen for sharing with us the work plan of the Human Dimension Committee. We expect that the topics, such as international humanitarian law, prevention of torture, hate crime and hate speech, issues related to civil, political, economic and cultural rights will be high on the agenda of the Committee. Similarly, violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms must continue to remain at the focus of the Committee as they have direct implications for security in our region, given that at least some of the conflicts in the OSCE region are, in one way or another, the result of disrespect, violation and violent suppression of human rights and fundamental freedoms. We also appreciate the tireless efforts of the Polish Chairmanship aimed at

the early start of discussions on the topics and agenda of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and the Human Dimension Seminar which should be organised with broad participation of all stakeholders in an inclusive and non-discriminatory manner. To this end, the Delegation of Armenia stands ready to engage constructively in these discussions with a view to reaching consensus.

In closing, let me wish all three distinguished colleagues, Chairs of the three Committees, every success in their endeavors.

Thank you.