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ENGLISH only



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

**Statement**

**in response to the Address of First Deputy Prime Minister and  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia H.E. Ivica Dačić  
delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 1008th Meeting of the  
OSCE Permanent Council**

July 15, 2014

We warmly welcome First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia H.E. Mr. Ivica Dačić to the Permanent Council and thank him for the comprehensive address.

Mr. Deputy Prime Minister,

You touched upon a number of issues in the agenda of our Organization and outlined the priorities of the incoming Serbian Chairmanship in all three dimensions. We would like to present our views on certain points of your thoughtful address.

Indeed, throughout 2014 and 2015 we have been and will be marking important tragic anniversaries that have profound implications on the security and cooperation in Europe.

The First World War showed to what degree ruling elites can be misguided if they push what is perceived to be their national interests and sovereignty at any cost, including direct extermination of entire races and peoples. The efforts to establish international system based on cooperation between states and the respect of the right of self determination of peoples immediately followed the horrors of the First World War. Those efforts created the context which eventually evolved into the principles of Helsinki Final Act.

These anniversaries give an opportunity to strengthen security and cooperation among nations who happened to be descendents of victims and perpetrators through recognizing past and returning human dignity to all.

Our Organization as a platform for dialogue is well placed and highly relevant to discuss, build and shape peace and reconciliation. My Delegation supports Helsinki +40 process which is aimed at moving closer to security community, free of closed borders and dividing lines. We should also reiterate our commitments to the founding principles, underpinning the Helsinki Final Act, which enables peoples with rights to peace, security, equality and self-determination. At the same time Helsinki+40 process should not be used to duplicate or even worse to impede the activities of already agreed mechanisms and formats of the OSCE. Having said this, we welcome



the intention of the incoming Serbian Chairmanship to support agreed formats dealing with existing conflicts. We agree with Your assessment on the necessity of ensuring regular and unimpeded character of their activities. Commitment to peace talks, engagement in good faith, strengthening trust and confidence and honoring previous agreements are the prerequisites of conflict resolution.

In our view OSCE Chairmanship should act in the true spirit of multilateralism which entails ability to engage all participating states in impartial manner, refrain from unilateral pursuit of its national policies or alliances that could lead to the creation of non inclusive groupings. Armenia has been very clear with regard to such actions and made its reservation in open and transparent manner.

Mr. Deputy Prime Minister,

My Delegation agrees with You on the need to further strengthen the OSCE capacities in the field of conflict cycle. We are looking forward to the upcoming meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group on Conflict Cycle, which is the only inclusive and comprehensive platform for dialogue on conflict cycle between participating States.

In regard to political-military dimension, we agree with the Serbian Chairmanship on vitality of renewed and adapted to prevailing military security realities arms control regimes and confidence and security building measures. We will support the efforts of the Chairmanship aimed at strengthening the OSCE commitments in this field and assisting in their full and all-weather implementation. We were pleased to note that the Serbian Chairmanship will continue to pursue discussions on Security Sector Reform.

Turning to second dimension, we would like to support the priorities of the Serbian Chairmanship in this regard. Recent floods in Western Balkans highlighted an important aspect: we can turn natural disasters into opportunities for cooperation. Water governance has important security link and joint management of shared water resources, such as cross-border rivers and water reservoirs for mutual benefit can serve to strengthening confidence and regional cooperation.

As for the human dimension, we also firmly believe that creation of common security community is not possible without full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Crises and conflicts tend to be the outcome of systematic violation of human rights and any conflict resolution could be effectively pursued in the framework of respecting and implementing our human dimension commitments. We share the priorities of the Serbian Chairmanship, such as freedom of expression and freedom of media, protection of journalists, tolerance and non-discrimination, rights of national minorities.

Indeed, OSCE institutions and field operations play important role in supporting implementation of our commitments and therefore we should make enhanced use of opportunities provided by them. In the same vein, close cooperation with civil society and OSCE academic network is also valuable asset that may assist all of us in implementing OSCE commitments.

In conclusion, we would like to commend close cooperation and coordination of efforts of the current Swiss and future Serbian Chairmanships, as well as wish all success to You, Mr. Deputy Prime Minister, in Your future responsible mission.

Thank You.