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

**Statement on European Security**

**delivered at the Joint meeting of**

**the Forum for Security Cooperation and Permanent Council**

March 9, 2016

Mme Chair,

We would like to thank the German Chairmanship and the FSC chairmanship of the Netherlands for convening this joint meeting of the FSC- PC under the proposed title.

We would also like to welcome Prof Dr Joris Voorhoeve and Mr Andreas Michaelis and thank them for their thoughtful remarks.

Today, evolving security environment in Europe and beyond requires sober assessments, reality checks and dialogue.

In our firm belief, diverging views on and perceptions of the outcomes of the cold war and future integration processes in Europe, persistence of closed borders, violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms infringement upon the exercise of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, as well as introduction of the concept of kinship solidarity by some participating states in the conflict resolution significantly undermined the indivisibility of European security.

Having mentioned this, let me stress that the recommitment of the OSCE pS to the principles of Helsinki Final Act, without selective approach and artificial hierarchy, will serve the purpose of common and indivisible security. In the meantime, during the recent discussions we witnessed an erroneous trend to draw artificial parallels between the conflicts in the European continent. To take a particular situation and generalize it vis-a-vis all conflicts regardless of differences in their root causes, essence and the framework of resolution is misperceived and counterproductive. In this regard, we are also concerned that there are certain approaches of linking protracted conflicts irrespective of their resolution format into overall framework of conflict cycle of the Organization. These linkages will not

be useful either for resolving particular protracted conflicts or developing capacities for conflict cycle in the Organization.

We would like to recall that all participating states agreed in 2009 Athens Ministerial Statement that Nagorno-Karabakh conflict should be resolved in accordance with three principles such as non use of force or threat to use a force, equal rights and self determination of peoples and territorial integrity. These principles have been also put forward by the agreed format of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict resolution-the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs. In this vein, let me underscore that the pS need to commit themselves to the peaceful settlement of the conflicts in line with their commitments and within agreed formats. The attempts to undermine internationally mandated agreed formats and OSCE permanent presences in the conflict area aimed at de-escalating the situation on the ground including through introduction of CSBMs, may serve as a serious impediment to conflict resolution.

Conventional Arms Control and CSBMs are the backbones of our security to reinforce accountability, sufficiency, transparency and predictability in ever changing security environment. The current CFE treaty impasse should be overcome as quickly as possible. We need to embark on meaningful negotiations that will necessarily preserve the parts, which have been successfully functional, reflect the changes in the current security environment and not shy away from employing creative means such as the status-neutral approach. Vienna Document as a key Confidence and Security Building Measure needs to be further modernized to prevent and deal with challenges of the Euro-Atlantic security.

Mme Chair,

The activities of religious extremists and foreign terrorist fighters in close vicinity of the OSCE area have been a serious threat to the European security. The continued support of terrorist fighters emanating from the OSCE's adjacent areas multiply this threat and have already undermined security in many bordering regions. We see massive human rights violations along with threats to resort to even more grave identity based brutality using the language justifying previous mass atrocities. More than ever genocide prevention became relevant in the areas which have previously witnessed the crime of genocide.

The full implementation of OSCE commitments related to the combating violent extremism and foreign terrorist fighters undertaken in Basel and Belgrade is essential to create trust among participating states towards our common endeavor of the European security.

Thank you.