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

Statement

**In response to H.E. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the UNODC and
Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna**

**delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 948th Meeting of the OSCE
Permanent Council
April 18, 2013**

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to warmly welcome Ambassador Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna.

I would like to stress that this address is very timely taking into account the evolving agenda of the OSCE in addressing the transnational threats. New capacities such as TNT department and adoption of the several decisions may further transform the OSCE into a strong regional partner of the UNODC in its global fight against drugs, crime and terrorism.

This cooperation should focus on the urgent threats which require prompt actions and generate political will to meet challenges together regardless of various political disagreements among member and participating states.

We are pleased to note that the Armenia's cooperation with the UNODC is ongoing. The second assessment mission of the UNODC Container Control Programme, which aims to assist Governments to establish effective container controls, is currently working with relevant Armenian governmental agencies to enhance Armenia's capabilities of preventing drug trafficking and other illicit container crimes. We are looking forward to your upcoming visit to Armenia in the course of which the relevant memorandum will be concluded.

The UNODC has earned a well-deserved reputation for the expertise of its staff, its insightful and analytical reports, and responsible stewardship of resources. It has a unique and irreplaceable role in promoting international cooperation.

It is that with the acknowledgement of UNODC contribution in forging international cooperation, we would like to recall certain instances where principles of the international cooperation were violated.

Here I am referring to the conference on strengthening cooperation against terrorism which was held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 18-19 March and was mentioned by the distinguished Azerbaijani Ambassador. Armenia has not been invited to the conference which thanks to the address of the Azerbaijani president became yet another venue for highest authorities of that country to voice out their racist and xenophobic remarks against Armenians.

The circulation of the address of Azerbaijani president by the Azerbaijani Delegation in the OSCE can give a good idea to the participating states to what extent the Azerbaijani leadership misused the framework of international cooperation in order to demonstrate a well-known attitude which has nothing to do neither with the word of international nor cooperation. We are not surprised of this verbiage as well as the Chair's summary which accurately replicates Azerbaijani position vis-à-vis NK issue. We hope that this experience will be thoroughly evaluated by the UNODC.

I would like also to briefly react on the points made by Azerbaijani delegation. In his mentioned address the President of Azerbaijan underlines that terrorism cannot be associated with any nationality or religion. However, he did attribute terrorism to Armenians using phrases like "Armenian terrorist organizations" and portrayed the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as fight of Azerbaijan against terror. So this inconsistency has apparently racist motivation.

In conclusion, we would like to wish every success to Mr. Fedotov and reiterate our readiness to cooperate with the UNODC on various fora of the international cooperation.

Thank you.