

Statement

**Delivered by Mrs. Lena Terzikyan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia
At the Opening Session of the 2008 Follow-up OSCE Conference on Public-Private
Partnership in Countering Terrorism: Partnership of State Authorities, Civil Society and
the Business Community in Combating Terrorism**

Vienna, 15 September 2008

Honorable Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

Terrorism remains one of the greatest threats to civilization today. It destroys innocent lives, divides peoples, fosters conflict, weakens economies and undermines progress. The fight against terrorism must be multidimensional and the international community has to be unequivocal in condemning those acts in the harshest terms. The terrorist cannot be stopped only by means of arms and military actions, states need to engage political, diplomatic, financial/economic, intelligence and law enforcement mechanisms, which are capable to eradicate this global scourge.

One main target for contemporary terrorism is the private sector and only the deployment of all elements of national power will help safeguard the nation's economy, security and well being. We do believe that the sustainable partnership between the public and private sectors is imperative, because the economic development and safeguarding the business community are becoming the strategic battlefields in the war against terror.

Mr. Chairman,

Armenia has always condemned resolutely terrorism and terrorist acts in all its manifestations. By ratifying the international counter-terrorist instruments, we are fully committed to the international fight against terrorism. My country utilizes all existing bilateral, regional and international capabilities to enhance its capacities against this global threat.

The 2005 Law of the Republic of Armenia in the Fight against Terrorism states that the main principles of the fight against terrorism in the Republic should be, among others, legitimacy, prevalence of preventive measures, complex use of preventive, legal, political, socio-economic and promotional means. The main actors in this field are the National Security Service, The Police, and The Ministry of Defense. All military and law-enforcement training and other activities are carried out in the Republic only by the State agencies leaving no space for existence and operation of private actors in the country. This enables a full control and monitoring of the field by the State.

Armenia is party to almost all UN and Council of Europe anti-terrorism conventions, cooperates successfully with the Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee under resolution 1540 and the 1373 Committee. The delegation of the Counter-terrorism Executive Directorate visited Armenia in September 2007 and reported the successful integration of counter-terrorism laws into Armenia's legislation and well-designed execution mechanisms.

The Government of Armenia has concluded multilateral and bilateral agreements on international cooperation in law-enforcement and collaborates with a number of international organizations within established mechanisms, which notably include the OSCE, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, the CIS Anti-terrorism Centre, INTERPOL and the NATO Partnership for Peace Program,.

Within the framework of regional cooperation the Armenian law-enforcement agencies undertake operative preventive “arsenal measures”, like the “Atom-anti terror” joint operative military trainings, “Border-Barrier” initiative, which is aimed at preventing and revealing groups involved in organized crime, terrorist and extremist groupings, as well as cases of illicit trafficking of arms and vehicles.

In May 2008, the National Assembly passed the new “Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism” law and vested the Central Bank with the legal authority to coordinate the AML/CFT and set the Financial Monitoring Centre, which functions as Armenia’s financial intelligence unit, covering analysis, legal compliance and international cooperation in this area.

Armenia believes that prevention is the best defense against the spread of this threat, which would also undercut the foundations for any pretext for recruiting. Weak economy, poor governance, high unemployment rate, engender conditions enabling the terrorist organizations to exploit their radical message and win support. States need to undertake drastic measures to change policies that victimize vulnerable populations, so that they do not become easy recruits for terrorist organizations.

The government of the Republic of Armenia is fully dedicated to undertake all the commitments it has undertaken under international treaties in its global anti-terrorism work.

We believe that a strong society, politically and economically, sustainable development, an inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue, implementation of policies based on the promotion of human rights and international law will help to leave no space for terrorism.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.