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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

## STATEMENT

**as delivered by the Delegation of Armenia at the 2021 Annual Security Review Conference**

**Working session III: Conventional Arms Control and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures: Challenges and Opportunities**

**01 September 2021**

Mr. Moderator,

The Delegation of Armenia joins others in thanking the keynote speakers for their insightful presentations.

Conventional Arms Control and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures are at the core of the OSCE's concept of comprehensive and co-operative security. They remain the key instruments for ensuring military stability, transparency and predictability by reducing the risk of conflict or escalation of tensions.

With the adoption of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), the Vienna Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and other legally and politically binding documents, the OSCE participating States have opted for a new model of security relations based on peaceful co-operation with the aim to exclude military confrontation. Today, the role and relevance of these measures cannot be underestimated.

Armenia has always advocated the full and all-weather implementation of the conventional arms control regime strongly opposing its violations, including the destabilizing and unabated accumulation of weapons, significant exceeding of the CFE ceilings, failure to notify of the large-scale military exercises, putting forward preconditions for receiving inspections, and the exclusion of a significant part of the armed forces from the verification regime. These violations have led to the use of force in our region twice over the past 5 years - in 2016 and 2020. The two wars waged by Azerbaijan against Artsakh should serve as a constant reminder for the OSCE and its participating States of the dire consequences of persistent violations of OSCE commitments.

Unfortunately, Azerbaijan has not abandoned its destructive policy towards both Armenia and Artsakh, and persistently disregards the principles and values of the Organization.

Azerbaijan, including jointly with Turkey, continues to threaten regional peace and security with unnotified large-scale military exercises in clear violation of the provisions of the Vienna Document. The offensive nature of these exercises, accompanied by extremely provocative rhetoric, constant threats and territorial claims voiced by the President of Azerbaijan against Armenia, pose a real threat to the security and safety of the peoples of Armenia and Artsakh, as well as to the peace and stability in the region. We all should bear in mind that both actions and inaction can lead to serious consequences, especially when it comes to conflict and crisis situations. Therefore, we call on participating States to stand up for our shared commitments and resolutely oppose their unapologetic violations.

Mr. Moderator,

In the last trimester, Armenia chaired the Forum for Security Co-operation with the understanding that full implementation of the OSCE politico-military commitments is essential for reducing the existing tensions and strengthening stability. We have made significant efforts to promote open and meaningful dialogue on current challenges, knowing full well that solutions cannot be found without understanding the root causes and consequences of these problems. We hope that the discussions we initiated have contributed to this objective and will help us to unite our efforts to prevent further erosion of our common security.

Thank you.