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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

**STATEMENT  
On Aurora Prize Award**

**as delivered by the Delegation of Armenia  
at the 1245th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council  
31 October 2019**

Mr. Chairman,

The Remembrance and Education of Genocide is an important part of the OSCE human dimension commitments and today we should like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the 4th Annual Aurora Prize Award ceremony, which was held in Yerevan on 19 October.

The Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity is an annual global award that is given to individuals who put themselves at risk to enable others to survive. Recipients are recognized for the exceptional impact of their actions on preserving human life and advancing humanitarian causes.

This year the Aurora Prize was awarded to Mirza Dinnayi, Co-Founder and Director of “Luftbrücke Irak” (Air Bridge Iraq). The Yazidi activist has found a way to overcome numerous bureaucratic and logistic obstacles to help the most vulnerable members of the Yazidi community during the conflicts in Syria and Iraq.

Working on behalf of the Yazidi community, Mirza Dinnayi has dedicated his whole life to saving the victims of the Iraq war, evacuating women and children from territories controlled by ISIS and providing those tortured and violated with rehabilitation and support. It was Dinnayi who brought to Germany the future Sakharov Prize Laureate Lamya Haji Bashar. Today, she is a renowned human rights activist and has one of Aurora’s scholarships named after her.

As the 2019 Aurora Prize Laureate, Mirza Dinnayi will receive a 1 million US dollar grant, through which he is given the opportunity to continue supporting organizations that have inspired his work. He has chosen to donate the funds to three organizations that provide medical care and rehabilitation to victims of atrocities committed by terrorists, and namely “Air Bridge Iraq”, “SEED Foundation” and “Shai Fund”.

The 2019 Aurora Prize Ceremony was part of the Aurora Forum, held in Armenia on October 14–21, 2019. The first ever Aurora forum successfully brought together thousands of participants to discuss and exchange views on some of the knotty challenges facing the world today. The agenda featured more than fifty events, including discussions and presentations on innovation, ecology, arts, education, humanitarian aid and tourism.

Mr. Chairman,

One of the founders of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative is the IDeA Foundation, which implements sustainable initiatives that have long-term socio-economic and cultural impact on Armenians. Among such initiatives is preservation of the historical and cultural heritage, including through restoration and renovation of spiritual sites, such as churches, monastery and mosque.

I should like to conclude, Mr. Chairman, by stressing that Armenia will continue its efforts in advancing Genocide Prevention in international fora including in the OSCE.

Thank you.