



ԵԱՀԿ-ՈՒՄ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՄՇՏԱԿԱՆ ՆԵՐԿԱՅԱՑՈՒՑՉՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ  
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

## **STATEMENT**

**in Response to the Report by the Chair of the IWG Structured Dialogue**

**as delivered by the Delegation of Armenia  
at the 79<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Permanent  
Council  
28 October 2020**

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the German FSC and the Albanian OSCE Chairmanships for organizing this FSC-PC meeting on Structured Dialogue. We also thank distinguished Ambassador of Spain Luis Cuesta Civís for presenting his report which we have looked through with interest, and let me take this opportunity and once again express our appreciation to Ambassador Cuesta and his team for professionalism and dedication in leading the work of the IWG throughout this year, especially taking into account the challenges posed by Covid-19.

Indeed, the negative implications of Covid-19 have been obvious for arms control and CSBMs. In terms of immediate impact, the pandemic has challenged the usual working methods of the OSCE, and virtual as well as blended meetings are the case in point. As a result of the pandemic many participating States canceled or postponed their military activities. Unfortunately, the pandemic affected the daily activities of the OSCE respective mechanisms with relevant security implications. In our region Azerbaijan and Turkey, taking advantage of the prolonged absence of monitoring activities, have launched on September 27 an aggression against the Republic of Artsakh and Armenia and continue to wage that war, including against the civilian population.

This aggression, unprecedented in its scale, was preceded by an offensive by Azerbaijani forces against the Republic of Armenia at the north-east of the state border, when the civilian settlements and civilian infrastructure of the Tavush province of Armenia also came under attack.

The July offensive against Armenia was followed by a joint Turkish-Azerbaijani military drills, which became an ideal cover up for deployment of Turkish military personnel and equipment in Azerbaijan, as well as for fine-tuning the military plans for aggression against Artsakh. Furthermore, from July to September Turkey through its recruitment scheme recruited and deployed to Azerbaijan thousands of FTFs and jihadists.

Therefore, we have clear cases of OSCE participating States that blatantly violate their political-military commitments and we believe that their actions should be assessed and condemned in a clear and unequivocal manner.

Mr. Chairman,

The analysis of the discussions at the meetings of the IWG on Structured Dialogue clearly demonstrates that full implementation of existing commitments and mechanisms is the main prerequisite for promoting trust, confidence and stability. We believe that the wide range of tools and mechanisms elaborated in the Politico-Military dimension of the OSCE throughout several decades give solid ground for addressing the concerns, especially with regard to notification of exercises exceeding the threshold.

At the same time, the IWG Structured Dialogue discussions as well as the realities on the ground have rightly illustrated that large-scale exercises, snapshot exercises, as well as exercises conducted in close vicinity of borders especially with clear offensive scenarios are the main challenges to indivisible security of the OSCE area.

In circumstances when one state rely only on the use of force and another state instigates it, confidence and trust become the first victims. In this regard, we believe that the Turkish-Azerbaijani actions not only pushed back all our discussions within the Structured dialogue, but they are also challenging the future of this platform. In a situation when the use of force is the only "idea" promoted by two OSCE participating States, there cannot be any true dialogue, let alone listening with respect or sharing different views in order to learn and bring about new ideas.

Proceeding from this understanding, we consider essential for the future of this dialogue to concentrate first and foremost on implementation of the OSCE commitments, including the ones in the politico-military dimension. The main task of the arms control and confidence building measures is the conflict prevention and at this point it is obvious that continuous disregard by the participating States of blatant violations of the existing commitments result in failure of this task.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, let me once again thank the chairperson of the IWG Structured Dialogue and reiterate the willingness of Armenian delegation to continue its constructive engagement in the future deliberations.

Thank you.