

**Statement** ENGLISH only  
**by the Delegation of Armenia**  
**at the OSCE Workshop on Post-Conflict Rehabilitation: Stabilization, Reconstruction**  
**and Peacebuilding**

**Session 1 “The role of regional and multilateral organizations in support of stabilization**  
**reconstruction and peace building”**  
**2 May 2011**

Mr. Moderator,

We would like to thank secretariat for the Background paper, a very useful document to facilitate our discussions today, as well as our distinguished speakers for thought provoking presentations. It is my particular pleasure to welcome Amb. Pryakhin: former head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan.

One of the major projects undertaken under his leadership by the Office in Yerevan was the destruction of rocket fuel mélange - a pilot project within the OSCE area. Of course it was not designed as a post conflict rehabilitation project. However, the Background paper of secretariat identifies the projects like this one, together with the destruction of ammunition and stockpile management, as possible means for the OSCE engagement in post-conflict rehabilitation activities. Furthermore, if we look through the whole range of activities of this Organization it becomes obvious that most of the OSCE undertakings are designed in this or that manner to contribute to stability and reconstruction. This includes but is not limited to such areas as institution- and capacity-building, judicial and electoral reforms, human rights and multi-ethnic police trainings, protection of the rights of national minorities, cross border economic and environmental cooperation etc. This vast knowledge and experience allows the OSCE to contribute with its comparative advantages in the post conflict environment. However, it would not be correct to assume that such activities can be reduced solely to those OSCE pS which host the field missions, or that such endeavors can be carried out only on a fragmented basis.

As it is well known, the OSCE’s approaches to security are comprehensive and indivisible, and its activities are common for the whole OSCE area. Another distinctive feature for the OSCE is that it addresses all phases of conflict and crisis situations throughout the whole conflict cycle and thus adopts a global view and approaches. In this capacity the OSCE can act with an added value to prevent the relapse of conflicts through assisting in post-conflict reconstruction, including in the areas where the final settlement is still pending.

Post conflict does not mean only a formal end of hostilities, but so called “cold peace” or “no war no peace” situations which hinder the development of civil society, and require the generation of political will from both governmental and grass root levels in order to move forward. International assistance in building sustainable peace through reconstruction and rehabilitation, and the establishment of rule-of-law society contribute to and accelerate the local efforts to this end. They help to create alternative vision to life and society. As the UN Assistant Secretary General for Peacebuilding support Ms. Cheng-Hopkins put in her opening speech the international organizations should accompany people to come out from those situations.

In the situation of “no war no peace” and the absence of political resolution, the fear of the resumption of military actions keeps the international community and its financial actors away. Recent experience shows that the line between conflict and peace is indeed no longer clear, as violence may erupt from time to time even if there is cessation of hostilities. The charts presented by Ms. Cheng-Hopkins were very illustrative in this regard. In general the international organizations spend great efforts in relief assistance, while they stay away from large scale reconstruction and rehabilitation activities. By doing so, the international community loses the precious and unique opportunity created by the situation of “no war no peace” to cement the peace mentality in psychology of the parties involved. When the memories of war are still fresh, interim rehabilitation projects may deter further military actions as they start the healing and regeneration processes in the affected societies and make it even more difficult to reconsider violence as means for conflict resolution.

Avoiding duplication and added value should always be one of the driving forces of international efforts. This is especially true to conflict related issues given their highly sensitive nature. Any efforts in this regard should be mindful not to harm the processes which are already internationally mandated to special formats. In these cases the agreed formats have the primary role to coordinate and synchronize international engagements acting in due subtlety and delicacy required by the situation. We deem such coherent stance imperative to address the challenges to stability and security, which are common to everyone, not only to those who are directly involved.

Thank you, Mr. Moderator.