Mr. Moderator,

Let me express our deep gratitude to the Government of Poland, OSCE Slovak Chairmanship and ODHIR for the organization of Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

It is regrettable that despite the OSCE Slovak Chairmanship’s strong commitment to human centric approach human rights and fundamental freedoms of people residing in conflict areas was not examined in HDIM as a specifically selected topic due to the objection of handful OSCE participating States.

In our view it would have been an excellent opportunity to have substantial discussions on the human rights of people residing in conflict areas, thus preventing the attempts to misuse and abuse almost all agenda items to cover up poor human rights records by invoking conflict related issues.

Delegation of Armenia is concerned with continued attempts of some participating States to limit space of civil society not only within their respective countries but in the HDIM as well.

This year’s HDIM meeting was marked by increased activity of State funded NGOs, who tried to promote official propaganda and political agenda of their government and divert attention from the dire human rights situation in their respective country. Such performance is a clear abuse of HDIM, which undermines and discredits the value of dialogue and transforms HDIM to a comfortable platform for a certain State to spread State funded propaganda.

We understand that complete failure to comply with OSCE human dimension commitments and lack of any argument in supporting their policies compel that participating State to hide behind the GONGOS.

Mr. Moderator,

The Delegation of Armenia contributed to almost all working sessions on different topics and we hope that our recommendations set solid framework for the OSCE Slovak Chairmanship in considering possible MC deliverables. Last but not least the Delegation of Armenia will continue to insist that human rights and fundamental freedoms are protected for all, including in conflict areas.
Thank you.