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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT
On the Report of the Activities of the OCEEA

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

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to thank Ambassador Vuk Žugić for the report on the Activities of his office. It is important to hear once again that your ultimate goal during your activities is to avoid new divisions and to narrow disparities between and within countries. We too recognize the potential of the OSCE's economic and environmental dimension in fostering dialogue and diminishing tensions. These important tasks are recognized by relevant Ministerial Council Documents. However, our discussions demonstrate that we are still far from delivering on these important commitments. Therefore, determination both, on the part of the Secretariat and participating states, is needed to achieve these goals rather than seeking other easy solutions and quick wins.

Environmental cooperation can turn the challenges into opportunities. Co-operative water governance has a huge potential for building trust and confidence. We had the opportunity to reflect on these topics during the last Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting and my delegation presented our position in this regard. Those discussions, among certain positive trends in other relevant areas, once again demonstrated that the opportunities for progress in energy dialogue in the OSCE are extremely limited. Therefore, our upcoming deliverables in this regard should be realistic and aimed at removing the obstacles for inclusivity and genuine dialogue. Principles of economic cooperation, identified in the 2003 Maastricht Strategy, namely equal and non-discriminatory partnership, full respect for the interests of all OSCE participating States and minimizing negative impact of actions in the economic field on other participating States should be at the core. So far, these principles are not respected when it comes to certain extra budgetary projects. In our view, such projects are further deepening the dividing lines in the OSCE area instead of contributing to good neighborly relations.

Ambassador Žugić, we commend your valuable guidance and expertise provided by your office for the successful implementation of the Anti-corruption reform in Armenia. The adopted National Anti-corruption Strategy for 2019-2022 and its Action Plan will sustain the

remarkable achievements in this sphere and lay a solid ground for the prevention of corruption on an institutional basis. We are also grateful to our partners for making the implementation of this project possible.

By concluding let me once again thank you for your efforts and assure you of this Delegation's support in putting the cooperation and inclusivity at the core of your activities.

Thank you.