



Statement
On the Presidential Election in the Russian Federation

as delivered by the Delegation of Armenia at the 1180th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
March 22, 2018

Mr. Chair,

The Delegation of Armenia took note of the statements delivered under the current issues related to the March 18 Presidential election in the Russian Federation, and we are pleased to state our strong support towards actions of the Russian authorities aimed at ensuring the realization of the right of citizens to vote and form government, in line with Russia's international and OSCE commitments.

The election has been marked by comprehensive legislation, accuracy of voter lists, ability of contestants to campaign freely, high turnout, good administration and conduct of the election in orderly manner and credible tabulation. It should be noted that these positive aspects have been reflected in the reports of all election observation missions in more or less similar manner, including the joint OSCE/ODIHR and OSCE PA international observation mission, which *inter alia* stressed that their observers were able to follow process and observe freely.

In summing up the positive aspects of the election, we would like to stress that the outcome of the Presidential election fully reflects the will of the people of the Russian Federation. In his congratulatory letter addressed to the President-elect Vladimir Putin, the President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan has stressed that the outcome of the election demonstrated strong support of Russian citizens towards policy of their Government aimed at sustainable development, economic modernization and increased involvement in global processes.

In conclusion, also in the connection with the previous current issue raised by the Delegation of the Russian Federation, I would like to stress that the citizens of Russia visiting or residing in Armenia were able to vote freely in the Russian diplomatic missions.

Thank you