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**DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**  
**ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

**STATEMENT**

**delivered at the 2017 Annual Security Review Conference**

**Working session IV: Transnational threats- current and future trends**

29 June, 2017

I would like to thank the key note speakers for their interesting and thorough remarks.

Armenia strongly supports commitments undertaken by the OSCE and global community aimed at preventing and countering transnational threats, including terrorism, the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters and violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism.

We certainly agree that no religion should be associated with terrorism. That being said, we cannot overlook two facts.

First terrorists, who impose global security threats, often act in the name of a religion and promote a peculiar form of religious solidarity.

Second, it should be noted that contemporary forms of terrorism target communities based on their religion and ethnicity.

Recognition of atrocities perpetrated against religious communities, bringing perpetrators to justice, depriving terrorists such as ISIL and ANF of any cross border assistance is an important part of the OSCE commitments agreed by all participating states in the Hamburg Ministerial Declaration.

These commitments developed also by the Ministerial Council relevant declarations in Basel and Belgrade indicate that there is a strong consensus to fight terrorists and

foreign terrorist fighters in the OSCE area and its neighborhood. At this uneasy time of sustained contradictions in the OSCE this consensus should be particularly valued and continuously built on.

The OSCE as a security organization is well placed to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism through its indivisible and comprehensive security approach mainstreamed in all three dimensions. This is particularly important given the fact that countering terrorism and protecting human rights including those of the victims of terrorism are intertwined and cannot be separated.

Any attempts to use terrorist organizations or adopt their tactics within the existing conflicts have always been counter-productive. The OSCE with its mandate and expertise on conflicts should be able to prevent these attempts and this is a comparative advantage of our organization which should be effectively pursued.

Special attention should be given to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms as there are cases when the lack of democracy and human rights are filled by official discourse of hate crime and hate crime glorifications which provide intrinsic link between violent extremism and terrorism.

I would like to conclude by reiterating Armenia's full commitment in thorough implementation of our obligations in the framework of the OSCE and in the global framework to uproot the threat of terrorism.

Thank you.