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ENGLISH only

Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
ARMENIA, H. E. MR. VARDAN OSKANIAN
660TH (SPECIAL) PLENARY MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
17 APRIL 2007**

Canada joins other delegations in warmly welcoming the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Armenia, H. E. Vardan Oskanian back to the Permanent Council. We thank him for his comprehensive, frank presentation today on Armenia's engagement with the OSCE in all three dimensions, and domestic and regional developments.

We note that the level of cooperation between the Government of Armenia and the OSCE Office in Yerevan is good. Canada strongly supports the work of this mission, particularly in the areas of human rights, rule of law and gender, and we hope this good relationship will continue.

Canada is following with great interest the preparations for the 12 May parliamentary elections in Armenia. Following Armenia's invitation to have OSCE/ODHIR monitor these elections, we are pleased that a number of Canadians will be participating as both long and short-term observers.

We call on Armenia to continue its good cooperation with ODIHR throughout the electoral process, in line with OSCE commitments made.

Canada remains concerned about the continued tensions in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. We reiterate our full support for the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group. We believe this is the most appropriate mechanism to help resolve this conflict.

In this context, we hope that your meeting with your Azeri counterpart on 18 April will be fruitful.

In closing, we again thank the Foreign Minister for his presentation today.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, Canada also joins others in expressing our sincere condolences to the Government and people of Armenia on the death of Prime Minister Andranik Margaryan, a great loss for Armenia.