## ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՊԱՏՎԻՐԱԿՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

Statement

in Response to OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator on Trafficking in Human Beings, Ms. Madina Jarbussynova

## as delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 1168<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council 14 December 2017

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to warmly welcome Ambassador Jarbussynova back to the Permanent Council and thank her for submitting the annual report. We highly appreciate the efforts of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in advancing OSCE expertise and engagement in this particular field.

Combating trafficking in human beings is a priority for Armenia at least for the last decade. Throughout this period Armenia made considerable progress in legislation, practices and international partnership related to the combatting of trafficking in human beings. We are grateful to all our international partners for exchanging good practises and acknowledging both our achievements and further prospects of cooperation.

Last year we had already an opportunity to refer to and appreciate the visit of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator to Armenia. Now let me elaborate a bit on the Report of that visit. The Report assesses the efforts of combatting Trafficking in Human Beings in a very comprehensive manner and it introduces important framework of analyses and recommendations. We are grateful that the comments of the Government of Armenia has been attached to the Report. These Comments are initial feedback and the Report has been thoroughly assessed by the relevant Armenian stakeholders. Armenia will further rely on the expertise of this OSCE mandate in implementing its commitments related to the combatting of the trafficking.

That being said, let me join other delegations in expressing our satisfaction on the possibility of adoption of new the substantive OSCE commitments in the Vienna Ministerial Council in this regard.

It is encouraging that despite all setbacks there is a strong consensus among participating states to combat trafficking in human beings in cooperative and proactive manner.

I said proactive because not all issues addressed in the Decisions on combatting trafficking may occur in all participating states. However, trafficking is a transnational scourge and it should be addressed throughout inclusive participation and effective prevention.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Ambassador Jarbussynova for dedication in fulfilling her noble mission and wish every success in future endeavours.

Thank you.