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

**Statement**  
**delivered by Ambassador Ashot Hovakimian**  
**to the Opening Plenary of the OSCE Review Conference**  
**Warsaw, 30 September 2010**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by thanking the Government of Poland for warm hospitality extended to us. We also would like to thank Kazakh Chairmanship for tireless efforts and dedication in leading us towards Astana Summit. Our thanks also go to ODIHR for the work done during this year. We hope that this Review Conference here in Warsaw will be a successful start and our delegation is going to actively contribute and work constructively to that end.

This Review Conference should answer the questions of what has been done, where we are standing, what are the problematic areas for the OSCE to concentrate its efforts and it also should set the priorities for the future. The intention of today's meeting is to discuss and review implementation of the OSCE human dimension commitments and to look at ways to enhance participating States compliance with those commitments. Within seven working days we will have an opportunity to listen to various interpretations and approaches, recommendations and requests. We should use this opportunity to explore at large the ways to streamline joint actions in order to promote, ensure and respect human rights in our societies. We are convinced that our meeting will further support this goal.

We all agree that human rights issues are in the very basis of our Organization; one may say that they are the foundational building block on which other elements and engagements of the OSCE are based. However, we, along with some other delegations, have a feeling that because of this dimension being considered so fundamental, so important and so critical, other dimensions are perceived relatively unimportant and thus remain neglected. They have been conveniently interpreted as of marginal or mechanical utility.

We are among those who believe that the strengthening of other dimensions is very essential as they are deeply interrelated and interdependent. Yet we agree with the assertion that strengthening of other dimensions should not be at the expense of the human dimension. So, the adjustment of the equilibrium should not be downward, when reducing the importance of the ODIHR should make the others look like more equal. In fact, we should not only strengthen the other dimensions but strengthen the third dimension even further.

Lasting prosperity, security and stability cannot be achieved without democracy, good governance, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, rule of law,

tolerance and non-discrimination. They are also prerequisites for sustainable progress within societies and good neighbourly relations between countries. Therefore, we strongly advocate the notion that fundamental human rights should be protected and promoted in all area of the OSCE without exception and should not be dependent on certain political, legal, status related issues, since all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. As stipulates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, “no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty”. This has been the basis of our past actions and this should remain a basis for our future actions. Any deviation from it will endanger our common future. Regrettably, there are areas within the OSCE region where this clause has yet to be implemented in full.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to also elaborate very briefly over the performance and engagements of the ODIHR as a human rights watchdog of this Organization in different parts of the OSCE area. There are no doubts in our minds that during its existence ODIHR helped many countries, including my own, in a valuable manner, guided them through period of uneasy reforms and democratic state building processes. At the same time, we have to note that situation on the ground has changed and one should recognise it. It would be very hard to deny the fact that today, by default or by inertia, the ODIHR’s work is somewhat tilted and mostly limited to countries that gained their independence in recent decades, or it might be more accurate to say to countries that do not belong or affiliate themselves to a certain circle or amalgamation. We have to encourage a geographically balanced engagement of the ODIHR and other institutions of this Organization in order to achieve full enjoyment of all human rights in the OSCE region as an entity.

In conclusion, we would like to wish our colleagues a successful Review Conference and let me assure you that Armenia on its part will contribute to that success in a constructive manner.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.