



Statement

In Response to the Address by H.E. Mr. David Dondua, Deputy Foreign Minister of Georgia

**as delivered by Mr. Vahe Gevorgyan, Deputy Permanent Representative of Armenia, at the 1181st Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
12 April 2018**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of Armenia warmly welcomes H.E. Mr. David Dondua, Deputy Foreign Minister of Georgia to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his coherent address.

As our two nations move towards centennial anniversary of proclamation of independence, it is important to look back at peaceful and mutually reinforcing coexistence of Georgians and Armenians throughout millennia old history and look forward towards ensuring universal, indivisible and comprehensive security for our peoples in line with our international commitments and obligations.

Armenia values high-level political dialogue with Georgia and in this vein, we would like to recall the recent visit of Georgian Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirakashvili to Armenia, which was another important opportunity for the development of bilateral and multilateral agenda of cooperation and partnership.

We believe that international cooperation including in the OSCE framework can bring an added value in designing and implementing joint projects between our countries aimed at promoting economic connectivity.

As our Ministers reaffirmed in the framework of decision on strengthening good governance and promoting economic connectivity in Hamburg, economic cooperation in the OSCE area should be based on solidarity, transparency, equal and non-discriminatory partnership, mutual accountability, and full respect for the interests of all participating States.

In this regard, we would like to stress that transport and energy projects undertaken by Armenia and Georgia proceed from this very understanding. In our view, only inclusive and non-confrontational regional undertakings that are in line with OSCE commitments can promote regional cooperation and security.

Mr. Chairperson,

On many occasions, my delegation emphasized the strong role of the OSCE and its agreed formats in addressing conflicts in its region. We also believe that each crisis or conflict situation has its specific characteristics and therefore needs an approach tailored to the particular situation, something that was acknowledged in the Vilnius Decision on conflict cycle.

That being said let me highlight that non-use of force and greater use of confidence building measures throughout the entire conflict cycle remain important commitments which are valid in all conflict and crisis situations.

In concluding, let me thank again distinguished Minister for his address and wish him every success in his responsible mission.

Thank you.