



ԵԱՀԿ-ՈՒՄ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՄՇՏԱԿԱՆ ՆԵՐԿԱՅԱՑՈՒՑՉՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT

**as delivered by the Delegation of the Republic of Armenia at the 2021 Annual Security Review Conference
Working Session IV: Early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation – lessons learned and the way ahead 10th anniversary
01 September 2021**

Madam Moderator,

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/11 on Elements of the Conflict Cycle. It was a very important decision and, definitely, very innovative at the time of its adoption. Undoubtedly, it continues to remain relevant today, and if implemented in good faith, it can be quite instrumental in strengthening the OSCE's capacities in early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

The decision establishes a clear sequence and interlinkage between different stages of a conflict. Each stage, within its logic, requires implementation of a complex of carefully and meticulously planned measures and actions that would gradually bring parties to the final stage. Ignoring, disregarding or skipping individual conflict stages is both dangerous and counterproductive, particularly in cases where the root causes of conflict continue to persist.

In the Vilnius MC decision 3/11, the OSCE participating States reaffirmed the pledge made at the Astana Summit to increase efforts to resolve existing conflicts in the OSCE area in a peaceful and negotiated manner, within agreed formats, as well as to refrain from the threat or use of force as a tool to resolve conflicts.

The Decision further recognized the need for timely and preventive responses to crises and conflicts, which requires, inter alia, a comprehensive early warning capacity across all three OSCE dimensions.

Finally, in the decision, the participating States acknowledged the importance of a comprehensive and cross-dimensional response to conflict and crisis situations, highlighting the efforts to address violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Madam Moderator,

Ten years after the adoption of a key OSCE document on the conflict cycle, we have to admit that in practice the OSCE's conflict cycle capacities have not been fully implemented. This is true, in particular, for the early warning mandates of the OSCE Secretariat and executive structures. The OSCE region is still overwhelmed by conflicts, wars and military confrontations, therefore, it is important to recommit to the approaches that will help minimize the possibility of recurrence of old and/or the emergence of new conflicts in the first place, and will properly assess the security challenges and obstacles to peace and stability in our region.

First, it is necessary to completely and unconditionally reject the use or threat of force in international relations. The use of force and its outcome can never become the basis of any conflict resolution, as they only prolong conflicts and increase human suffering. At the same time, international response to the illegal use of force must be decisive and unequivocal, since its admissibility will further deepen the sense of impunity and create an environment in which international law, human rights and freedoms will eventually lose importance.

Second, a particular attention should be paid to the full utilization and strengthening of the Organization's early warning and conflict prevention capacities across all three dimensions. At the same time, the OSCE should be able to respond quickly to the constantly changing political environment and security challenges, based on its mandate and our shared commitments.

Thank you.