



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

Statement

**In response to the presentations by the
chairpersons of the three committees
as delivered by the Delegation of Armenia,
at the 1296th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**

17 December 2020

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to start by thanking Ambassador Neil Bush, Ambassador Florian Raunig and Ambassador Ivo Šrámek for their hard work and leadership in the three committees, as well as in drafting the respective Ministerial deliverables that we were able to produce thanks to their efforts and well-coordinated collaboration with the Albanian Chairmanship.

I would also like to once again reiterate the strong support of the Armenian delegation to the concept of comprehensive and indivisible security and the interlinked approach within the three dimensions.

Mr. Chairman,

The Delegation of Armenia commends the tireless efforts of the UK Chairmanship of the Security Committee throughout the 2020. We acknowledge the steps undertaken by the UK chairmanship to revitalize the work of the Security Committee. The involvement of experts, as well as the active discussions during the meetings were conducive to advancing the work of the committee. We also note with appreciation that for the first time since 2016, we managed to adopt a Ministerial document in the Security Committee. The Declaration on Strengthening Co-operation in Countering Transnational Organized Crime is an important step, which will give new impetus to the activities of the OSCE in this area.

In this context, we would like to express our appreciation to both the OSCE Albanian Chairmanship and the UK Chairmanship of the Security Committee for keeping the issues related to countering and preventing terrorism high on their agenda during the year.

At the same time, we deeply regret that the OSCE, being the world's largest security organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, was not able to respond, in any way, to the recruitment, financing, transfer and deployment of foreign terrorist fighters and jihadist groups to the area of the OSCE responsibility, as well as to the outrageous terrorist acts committed against the people of Artsakh. The inability of the OSCE to take appropriate action has led to a situation where two OSCE participating States, in complete disregard and disrespect for their international obligations and OSCE commitments, instrumentalized the use of terrorists to achieve their foreign policy goals. We believe that the OSCE and its participating States should stand for our common values. Therefore, we encourage the OSCE, in particular the Transnational Threats Department, to review its activities and take appropriate steps in line with its mandate.

Mr Chairman,

We also sincerely thank Ambassador Raunig for assuming the duties of the Chair of the Economic and Environmental Committee at a very important and decisive moment. Together with the tireless efforts of the Albanian Chairmanship, his diligence and determination paved the way for reaching consensus on the important decision on preventing and combating corruption. Armenian delegation was also constructively engaged in drafting another important decision on the protection of the environment, which we could not adopt due to the destructive stance of one delegation.

The OSCE Second Dimension has a specific role in complementing security and human rights issues by promoting confidence-building and inclusive co-operation among all participating States without exception.

Mr Chairman,

The delegation of Armenia also thanks Ambassador Šrámek and his able team for their hard work and crucial support extended to the Albanian Chairmanship in achieving notable success in the Human Dimension. The adoption of the Ministerial Council decision on the *Prevention and Eradication of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* was long overdue, but on the other hand, extremely timely, given the cases of torture and inhuman treatment to which representatives of my people have been subjected as a result of the violent war and accompanied war crimes perpetrated by Azerbaijan. We regret that we were unable to reach consensus on other important decisions that were proposed by the Albanian Chairmanship. It is our strong belief that the Human Dimension is an important pillar and cornerstone of the OSCE's concept of comprehensive and indivisible security, and our delegation will continue to advocate for the application and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the OSCE area, without any exceptions.

In conclusion, let me wish all three distinguished Ambassadors, chairs of the three committees, every success in the years to come.

I thank you.