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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

**Statement**

**In Response to the Address of H.E. Lasha Darsalia,  
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia  
as delivered by the Delegation of the Republic of Armenia  
at the 1309<sup>th</sup> meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**

*15 April 2021*

Madame Chairperson,

The Delegation of Armenia warmly welcomes H.E. Lasha Darsalia, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia back to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his address.

Distinguished Minister,

Armenia highly values its relations with Georgia which are anchored on traditional historic ties, spiritual and cultural interlinkages, friendship and mutual respect. Regular exchanges of high-level visits and contacts serve as an impetus to further deepening the mutually beneficial cooperation and political dialogue between our friendly states. And the visit of the President of Armenia to Georgia today is a clear evidence of our close cooperation. And our multifaceted collaboration on bilateral and multilateral tracks is also an important tool to this end.

At the same time, we believe that the full potential of our cooperation, especially its regional dimension, remains untapped, since we equally believe that our bilateral relations represent an important asset for regional co-operation aimed at strengthening security and stability in our region.

Unfortunately, the security challenges and vulnerabilities in our region became even more apparent in the course of the last year with the COVID-19 pandemic and the war of aggression against Artsakh and its people unleashed by Azerbaijan in blatant violation

of the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and in particular the principle of refraining from the threat or use of force.

In this regard, it should be emphasized that the OSCE, as the largest security organization, with its concept of comprehensive and indivisible security and its early warning mechanisms and agreed conflict related formats, could and should have played an active role in preventing and ensuring peaceful settlement of disputes and conflicts.

Furthermore, the OSCE through its relevant toolbox could and should encourage the promotion of regional cooperation, in particular, through supporting only genuinely inclusive and non-confrontational regional undertakings. This should be done strictly in line with OSCE commitments and fully respecting the interests of all countries of the region in particular, and OSCE participating States in general. This is the only way to build and ensure safety and security in the region, and therefore, we urge and encourage the OSCE to be guided by this understanding when defining its activities, and especially when elaborating regional development projects related to all areas of OSCE`s responsibility.

In closing, let me once again thank you, Minister, for your appearance at the Permanent Council and wish every success to you and to the friendly people of Georgia.

Thank you.