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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

## STATEMENT

**in Response to the Opening Remarks by the Minister of  
State of German Federal Foreign Office Niels Annen  
as Delivered by Ambassador Armen Papikyan, Permanent Representative of  
Armenia at the 953<sup>rd</sup> Plenary Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation  
September 9, 2020**

Madam Chairperson,

I would like to join other colleagues in congratulating Germany on assuming the FSC Chairmanship. I also wish to warmly welcome H.E. Mr. Niels Annen, Minister of State of German Federal Foreign Office, to the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation and thank him for outlining the priorities of the German FSC Chairmanship.

Likewise, I would like to welcome the USA as a new member of the FSC troika. We look forward to our collaboration next year, as Armenia is going to take over the torch of the FSC Chairmanship.

The Delegation of Armenia welcomes the approach of Germany in focusing on topics that are within the mandate of the FSC. This delegation will follow closely and constructively contribute to the deliberations on proposed topics in due course.

At this point, I would like to make some general observations with regards to some of the priorities.

It is important that the issue of Small Arms and Light Weapons will be maintained in the agenda of the Security Dialogues, taking also into account the Twentieth Anniversary of the OSCE document. In this regard, I would like to reiterate the long-standing position of this delegation that the effectiveness of SALW and SCA firmly rests on the implementation in good faith of our commitments, which is also true with regards to arms control regimes and confidence- and security-building measures in general. This is our principled approach which we have been voicing repeatedly. It is also our firm belief that we cannot and should not compromise on the issue of implementation of those commitments, or condition them to political or other considerations.

By saying this, we are concerned that Armenia's request for the SALW project aimed at further enhancing the effective implementation of our commitments in this field is unduly politicized and delayed artificially for years. Therefore, the request of Armenia to the FSC Chairmanship to inform the Forum about the actions undertaken in the framework of the assistance request by Armenia which has not been addressed by the previous FSC Chairmanships is still valid.

The implementation of the Vienna Document is another topic that has particular importance against the backdrop of the current situation in the OSCE area. Continuous violations of this document and reluctance to provide requested information creates a major challenge to regional security and transparency, thus undermining the whole architecture of the CSBMs.

Madame Chairperson,

We also welcome the idea to mark the Twentieth anniversary of the UNSCR 1325, through discussion on the implementation of the resolution in the OSCE area. Armenia believes that this agenda is one of the most important steps towards gender mainstreaming in the security sector and ensuring the protection and participation of women. Peace, security and human rights are important components of Armenia's foreign policy agenda. Peace and security related efforts are more sustainable when women are equal partners in the prevention of violent conflicts, the delivery of relief and recovery efforts, as well as in contributing to the lasting and durable settlements. In this context ensuring solid participation of women in the resolution of conflicts is not merely an exercise of gender equality, but an instrument enhancing the chances of peace and development.

Madam Chairperson,

Germany is assuming its chairmanship at very challenging times due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other developments in the OSCE area, as well as ahead of the upcoming meeting of the Ministerial Council in Tirana. In this regard, we rely on the leadership, determination and experience of Germany during fulfillment of its mandate.

Before concluding my statement, I would like to refer to the statement of the Turkish delegation and say that I resolutely and in no uncertain terms reject the groundless and baseless accusations of Turkey against my country. In July, during the 1277<sup>th</sup> PC meeting, under the current issue entitled "Turkey's aggressive policy and military posturing as destabilizing factor in the South Caucasus" we exhaustively elaborated and presented our position regarding the raised issue, so I would encourage and invite our distinguished colleague from Turkey to once again read our statement, which is self-explanatory and has been distributed under the reference number PC.DEL/1093/20.

In conclusion, let me wish you, Madam Chairperson, and your able team every success during your tenure and assure that you can count on constructive engagement of our delegation.

Thank you.