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DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

Statement
On the Parliamentary Elections in Armenia
delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 911th Meeting of the OSCE
Permanent Council
May 10, 2012

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to thank the European Union, United States, Belarus and Russian Federation for their close attention to the Parliamentary Elections in Armenia, which took place on May 6, 2012. We took note of the statements and their content will be duly conveyed to the Armenian authorities.

The Armenian Government conducted the Parliamentary elections in an open and transparent manner through close cooperation with international partners including OSCE/ODHIR. We are glad to note that the international partners promptly reacted to the invitation to monitor the elections. This time there were 650 international observers including observers from the OSCE/ODHIR, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the PACE, the European Parliament, the CIS and the CIS Parliamentary Assembly.

We would like to thank the international observers and particularly those who are members of the OSCE delegations for their efforts in assisting Armenia to continue the progress towards fully applying standards of free and fair elections.

According to our preliminary assessment, this progress was well manifested in a number of important areas such as ensuring right to vote, freedom of assembly, expression and movement. The improved legislative framework and balanced media coverage of the elections marked openness and inclusiveness of the electoral processes.

We are glad to note that our preliminary assessments on the progress achieved are largely shared in the statement of the preliminary findings and conclusions of the Joint Election Observation Mission. In the same document, the Joint Election Observation Mission referred to certain deficiencies of the electoral process of which my delegation took good note.

The Parliamentary elections were conducted in a very vibrant and competitive environment and their outcomes reflect dynamic processes of building pluralistic society in Armenia. Six out of nine parties and bloc participating in the elections will be represented in the newly elected parliament.

In conclusion, I would like to assure that Armenia will continue its close cooperation with all our international partners to achieve common goals of democratization and greater respect of human rights.

Thank you.