

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/1062/23
28 July 2023

ENGLISH only



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

Statement

**In Response to the Statement by Spain
on Behalf of the European Union
as Delivered by the Delegation of Armenia
at the 1436th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**

27 July 2023

Mr. Chairman,

The Delegation of Armenia thanks the delegation of Spain on behalf of the European Union for raising this current issue on the "World Day against Trafficking in Persons".

Combating trafficking has been and remains in the focus of the Government of Armenia. Armenia undertakes consistent and systematic steps to develop effective anti-trafficking policy, including through regular updates and reality checks.

To this end Armenia has developed effective collaboration with all relevant stakeholders including international partners such as the UN, OSCE and Council of Europe, in particular with the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) as well as representatives of the civil society.

In the national program of 2023-2025, which was adopted earlier this year, the Government of Armenia prioritizes the implementation of most effective preventive measures,

identification of potential victims, as well as improvement of the support and clarification of protection mechanisms. Since 2020, the priorities of the Government have significantly expanded to include the creation of support mechanisms providing mental and physical assistance to the population affected by the 2020 war of aggression. Support is provided to particularly vulnerable groups such as children, women, people with disabilities, forcibly displaced population, making the fight against human trafficking and exploitation more inclusive and comprehensive. Within the framework of the adopted national policy, Armenia has undertaken the responsibility to act properly to prevent, investigate and punish the perpetrators of trafficking, as well as to protect and assist the victims.

Mr. Chairperson,

Conflicts and wars have inflicted serious damage to international cooperation in combating various crimes, including the fight against human trafficking. There are important aspects of human trafficking that continue to remain overlooked against the backdrop of the armed conflicts.

In this regard there is an urgent need to address two important aspects in the context of Countering Trafficking in Human Beings in Armed Conflicts that we encountered during the war of aggression against Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh).

By saying this, we refer to the similar modalities of trafficking being used for the recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters as well as the nexus between the trafficking in human beings and the enforced disappearance, in particular related to the Prisoners of War.

In closing, we call on the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings to address these issues in close coordination with other relevant mandates and international organisations.

Thank you.