



STATEMENT

**as delivered by the Delegation of Armenia
at the 1105th meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation
Opening Session**

14 May 2025

The delegation of Armenia warmly welcomes Mr. Jonatan Vseviov, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia, and congratulates Estonia on assuming the role of the Chair of the Forum for Security Cooperation. We wish a successful Chairpersonship in these challenging times and assure you, Ambassador Tael of our support in your crucial task of leading the Forum throughout the next months.

We value the FSC as an important platform to discuss political-military and security issues across the OSCE region. In this regard, we rely on your Chairpersonship to maintain a balanced and inclusive approach in addressing the wide range of security challenges, while ensuring proportionate and equal attention to all conflicts and crises situations across the OSCE area.

We thank you for presenting the work program and we believe that the proposed topics of security dialogues are timely and pertinent against the backdrop of uneasy geopolitical situation in the OSCE area of responsibility.

We highlight the Security Dialogue on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, with a particular focus on the democratic control of armed and security forces, as a crucial element in promoting accountability and respect for human rights within the security sector. It is crucial to reinforce the principle that armed forces must remain under effective democratic oversight. In these times, when the concept of comprehensive and indivisible security is seriously undermined, and trust and confidence are deteriorating across the entire OSCE region, upholding the norms set out in the Code of Conduct is more important than ever. We believe that this discussion will serve as a good opportunity for substantive exchanges on best practices and challenges in implementing the Code of Conduct, contributing to greater stability and security across the OSCE region.

We value the planned discussion on the Women Peace and Security agenda, with an emphasis on the role of women in strengthening defence and ensuring resilience.

The meaningful participation of women in defence and security is essential to building more resilient, inclusive, and effective institutions. Acknowledging that women and girls continue to be disproportionately affected by wars, conflicts, and crises across the OSCE area, it is crucial to ensure their protection from gender-based violence during armed conflicts. It is equally important to address the emerging challenges faced by women affected by military violence and forced displacement. Promoting the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in security and decision-making processes leads to more effective and inclusive responses to today's complex challenges.

We also look forward to the upcoming discussion on the protection of children in armed conflicts at the FSC-PC meeting—a particularly relevant topic in light of the growing challenges and alarming rise in violations of children's rights. These include the denial of humanitarian access, the use of starvation as a method of warfare, and deliberate attacks on schools — all of which have been witnessed in conflict zones within the OSCE area of responsibility. Such grave violations not only inflict long-term harm on children but also represent a broader threat to international peace and security. The plight of children in armed conflicts demands our collective attention and a strengthened commitment to respect and ensure compliance with International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law and the OSCE commitments.

Madame Chair,

In closing, allow me to once again assure that the FSC Chairpersonship of Estonia can count on the support of the Armenian delegation and we stand ready to constructively contribute to the upcoming discussions. I also take this opportunity to thank Spain for leading FSC during the past trimester and welcome Finland as a new Troika member as well as thank Denmark, the outgoing Troika member.

Thank you.