

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Warsaw, September 24, Opening session

Statement of the Delegation of Armenia

As delivered by

Mr. Vaheh Gevorgyan, Deputy Head of the Permanent Delegation of Armenia to the OSCE

Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to thank the distinguished speakers for their opening remarks. Their strong message of relating European security with protection of human rights is as important today as it was years ago when the very concept of cooperation aimed at better implementing human dimension commitments was acknowledged. The HDIM is the best manifestation of this recognition and it is an instrument to advance it. We hope that the ongoing efforts of reviewing Human dimension events will improve the dialogue among participating states and civil society by turning it into more substantive and result oriented enterprise.

While acknowledging the role of international and regional cooperation in promoting human rights, we should not forget that this link works other way around as well. The emergence of strong culture of human rights will bring more cooperation in sustaining and achieving peace and reconciliation along dividing lines, a common goal we have set up in Astana under very ambitious notion of security community free of conflicts. In the 21 century conflicts in Europe cannot be solved but on the basis of the human rights by engaging people empowered by fundamental freedoms.

Thus genuine attempts towards ensuring greater respect of human rights and democratization eventually will be translated to the political will of resolving conflicts as much as the deterioration of human rights is destined to affect the regional security and to make any peace seeking efforts elusive.

Unfortunately, the growing trends of curtailing freedom of expression, undermining principle of justice, increasing xenophobia and intolerance including condoning and even glorifying hate crimes and hate crime perpetrators are establishing worrying precedents in the OSCE and on the certain cases are seriously affecting regional stability. The release and glorification of Ramil Safarov, an Azerbaijani officer convicted to life imprisonment for perpetuating a dreadful hate crime, is a shocking case in point.

Confronted with such troubling developments, we do not have any other choice but to show solidarity and intolerance towards grave and serious human rights violations.

At the same time, our readiness and ability to update human dimension commitments is also important in this regard. Armenia stands ready to contribute here.

Since our last meeting, as it was also before that, Armenia has achieved important progress in implementing its commitments with regard to the freedom of expression and assembly, as well as holding fair and free elections. Armenia is determined to build on these achievements in the same spirit of openness and cooperation with the international actors.

Thank you