

19 September 2017

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Opening Statement

September 11, 2017

As delivered by

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

Mme Chairperson,

I would like to start by expressing my deep gratitude and appreciation to the hosts of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, namely the Government of Poland and ODHIR. Furthermore, our thanks go to the Austrian Chairmanship for setting and agreeing with all participating states a common agenda.

Every year we get together in Warsaw to reaffirm the importance of our human dimension commitments by mutually monitoring each other, sharing good practices and getting feedback from civil society. The human dimension implementation meetings have never lacked passion, dedication and hot debates. We believe that this meeting will not be an exception as well.

However, while defending our national positions on each and every concrete issue it is also important to look at the third dimension from a wider perspective of security and cooperation particularly now when there are concentrated efforts to address divergent security perceptions in Europe through dialogue. We believe that the informal dialogue undertaken exclusively in politico-military dimension would be incomplete since many causes of current crisis which some in our organization attribute to the incompliance with the Helsinki Final Act principles occurred in the context of serious and repetitive human rights violations. After all, the use of force against equal rights and self-determination of peoples along with systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms lie at the hearth of many conflicts and crises. Thus this meeting as well as other human dimension events should serve as an integral part of our inclusive dialogue on re-establishing predictable, indivisible and comprehensive security for all based on implementation of all OSCE principles and commitments.

Mme Chairperson,

It goes without saying that the OSCE is as much about security as much as it is about cooperation. It is through inclusive cooperation we had decided to help each other in implementing our joint OSCE commitments. The OSCE field missions have been designed as effective instruments of such cooperation and the OSCE Office in Yerevan was an excellent if not exemplarily model of cooperation between the OSCE and host country particularly in the light of diminishing the OSCE presence in the South Caucasus. Unfortunately, those who closed the OSCE Office in Baku by invoking the sovereign rights of host country also closed the OSCE Office in Yerevan this time by abusing the OSCE principle of consensus. By closing

the OSCE Office in Yerevan Azerbaijan tried to create obstacles for Armenia in implementation OSCE commitments, those same commitments which it failed to implement itself.

In this regard, I would like to reaffirm that Armenia will continue to implement its human dimension commitments despite the closure of the Yerevan office and we look forward to ensuring continued OSCE engagement in this regard. Finally, I would like to reconfirm the importance of human dimension in this renewed OSCE engagement.

Thank you.