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

Statement

**In response to Ambassador Mihnea Constantinescu, Chair of the International
Holocaust Remembrance Alliance
delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 1029th Meeting of the
OSCE Permanent Council
January 26, 2017**

We would like to thank Ambassador Mihnea Constantinescu for his comprehensive address on Commemoration of the Holocaust. Our thanks also go to the Austrian Chairmanship for initiating these discussions on such an important topic of remembrance.

On January 27th the world will commemorate the Holocaust Remembrance day. Paying tribute to millions of Jews, exterminated by the Nazi regime is an act of remembrance, but also an important message against recurrence of the horrors of genocide and crimes against humanity. We should proceed from the understanding that each and every genocide could have been prevented if we had been faithful and fulfilled our duty of memory towards victims of precedent crimes

Remembrance and education of Holocaust and other genocides are important part of OSCE commitments, strongly interlinked with security. Focus on this commitment is particularly relevant in our days as we witness mass atrocities of the ethnic and religious minorities in Syria and Iraq, genocidal nature of which was clearly recognized by the international community last year.

The genocidal ideology of terrorist groups such as ISIL, Al-Nusra Front and other derivatives and associates of Al-Qaida, manifested also through their identity based crimes, create an urgent need to mainstream genocide prevention in all our efforts of protecting those racial, religious, ethnic and national groups, which are facing existential threats.

Mr. Chairman,

Armenia is a staunch advocate of genocide remembrance and prevention. In 2015 upon the initiatives of my country the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on the Prevention of Genocide and upon its recommendation the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution, according to which the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime was established.

The Convention on the Prevention and the Punishment of the Crime of Genocide has been our collective effort to mainstream “never again” pledge into clear-cut legal framework. The OSCE recognized the political significance of the Convention on number of occasions. We should make further efforts to implement the OSCE commitments on genocide prevention, remembrance and educations.

Thank You.