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

**Statement**  
**in Response to the Chairs of the Three Committees**  
**as delivered by the Permanent Delegation of Armenia at the 1174<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OSCE**  
**Permanent Council**  
**February 1, 2018**

Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to warmly welcome the Chairs of the three committees Ambassadors Victoria Roman Gonzalez, Kairat Sarybay and Sian Macleod and congratulate them on assumption of their responsible tasks. Our thanks go to Ambassador Steffen Kongstad for his efforts and dedication in leading the Security Committee.

Three Committees are essential in promoting thematic discussions on three dimension of security. Without dismissing the value of discussing cross-dimensional issues in the Committees, we would like to stress advisability of focus discussions on and in each dimension. That being said, let me present my delegations views on the plans of the three committees.

My delegation looks forward on the detailed discussion of the priorities and work plan of the Spanish Chairmanship of the Security Committee.

We see strong merits in keeping high on the agenda of the Committee discussions on SSG/R, Community Policing and particularly issues related to combating terrorism. We regret that last year it was not possible to adopt the relevant draft decision, which enjoyed almost unanimous support. However, well-negotiated content of the draft decision along with already defined commitments in the field of counter-terrorism undertaken in Basel, Belgrade and Hamburg provides excellent reference points for our deliberations in this field. We believe that envisaged new topics on which we heard today such as trafficking in cultural heritage should be clearly linked with the security threats emanating from terrorism and be defined in their geographic scope.

The phenomenon of foreign fighters, their return to their countries of origin and possible transfer to conflict areas should be among issues, which require attention of participating states. Also, protection of rights of ethnic and religious groups while fighting terrorism should be efficiently addressed. Those groups who, had already been victimized by numerous atrocities perpetrated by ISIL, AL-Qaida, ANF should not be subject of violence under the pretext of fighting terrorists and their plight should not be neglected.

As for the second dimension, we have already expressed our position during presentation of the work plan. We would like to encourage the Kazakh Chairmanship to streamline the topics of building economic and environmental partnerships in conflict and crisis areas as well as to promote connectivity as confidence building measure in the activities of the Committee. In this regard, we deem it important to incorporate in the activities of the Committee the topic of economic and environmental rights of the people residing in conflict areas.

We are ready to constructively engage in discussions within the thematic priorities of the UK Chairmanship of Human Dimension Committee. In our view along with promotion and protection of human rights the issue of prevention of human rights violations should be fully mainstreamed in the thematic discussions. It will provide necessarily link with security and address issues of prevention of human rights violations including in their gravest forms, which present security threats to peace and stability.

It will be also important to discuss OSCE commitments within overall scope of international instruments related to human rights and security and the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide provide good opportunities in this regard.

Armenia sees certain merits in constructing dialogue on the topics of human rights of people affected by conflicts. This dialogue should include all affected groups particularly people residing in conflict areas. Any selective approach, which favors one conflict affected group over the others and serves to promote conflict perceptions and positions would be firmly objected by our delegation.

In conclusion, we would like to wish the distinguished Chairs all success in their endeavors.

Thank you.