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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

**Statement**

**In Response to the Address by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,  
H.E. George Tsereteli**

**as delivered by Ambassador Armen Papikyan, Permanent Representative of  
Armenia, at the 1245th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council  
31 October 2019**

Mr. Chairman,

We warmly welcome the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly George Tsereteli and thank for his address to the Permanent Council today. We very much appreciate this dialogue, also the level of cooperation that has been maintained between PC and the OSCE PA, which should be preserved and further developed. Regular contacts with the democratically elected representatives of the peoples of the OSCE area are important and useful. It helps to jointly identify challenges and aspirations of the people living in the OSCE area, generate new ideas and explore avenues for fostering dialogue and trust. It is also important that the Parliamentary Assembly is responsive to instances of gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms occurring in the OSCE area and in our immediate vicinity.

We also thank you personally, Mr. President, for your efforts and determination to closely cooperate with Armenian authorities. Let me, from my side, reiterate that Armenia as well is willing and committed to cooperation with the OSCE PA on a wide range of issues, including elections. We are looking forward to welcome you in Armenia in near future to explore new avenues of our mutually beneficial cooperation in all issues where the OSCE PA can deliver tangible results.

Mr. President,

You have rightly recalled the fundamental changes that took place in Europe exactly 30 years ago, which shaped and influenced the current security and political architecture of the continent. The disintegration of the Soviet Union was an inevitable, but at the same time extremely painful process resulting in occurrences or resurfacing of number of conflicts, which have been concealed but certainly not addressed, under the Soviet Union rule. Decades of suppression of legitimate aspirations of the people as well as unwillingness to recognize the existence of those problems as such resulted in increased animosities, tensions and conflicts. However, though the Soviet Union is irreversibly gone from political

map of Eurasia, in certain cases the same mind-set, unwillingness to face the reality and to recognize the aspiration of people unfortunately is still there.

Armenia has always advocated for stronger OSCE involvement in the whole of the OSCE area without any limitations and impediments. We fully share your approach that in order to be successful we should stay in contact with people. Having said that, we should not forget that entire populations residing in conflict areas are being pushed to oblivion by indifference or even worse, sometimes being used to serve narrow political purposes of some. We believe that the OSCE PA should have status neutral, unhindered access to the conflict areas, speak to the people – learn about their needs and aspirations, before making any conclusions.

Mr. Chairman,

The efforts of parliamentarians towards peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which was also recognized by the Luxembourg Declaration, deserve appreciation. Armenia has always valued the role of parliamentarians in building an environment conducive to peace, building trust and confidence among all parties to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. But at the same time it is essentially important, to exercise caution in order not to harm the mainstream negotiation process within the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs format.

Mr. President,

We share your assessment that the Luxembourg Annual Session of the OSCE PA was a successful one in terms of attendance and its political messages expressed in Luxembourg Declaration which among others recognizes the primary responsibility of the participating States to protect their populations from genocides and atrocities, as well as calls on national parliaments to recognize the Armenian Genocide.

In conclusion, let me again highlight the readiness of Armenia to closely cooperate with the OSCE PA. To this end, your expected visit to Armenia will give a fresh impetus for even stronger cooperation.

Thank you.