



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

Statement

**in response to the Address of H.E. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, OSCE
Chairperson-in-Office, Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal
Republic of Germany
delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 1085th Special Meeting of
the OSCE Permanent Council
January 14, 2016**

Mr. Chairman,

We warmly welcome Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Permanent Council and thank him for the comprehensive address.

Mr. Minister,

The delegation of Armenia has already presented its approaches on the priorities of the 2016 German Chairmanship during your first appearance at the Permanent Council last year. Therefore we will use this opportunity to share some remarks on key points of your thoughtful address.

We fully endorse the approach of the German Chairmanship on promoting dialogue, trust and security. Indeed, our Organization is a forum for addressing outstanding issues of European security through dialogue, cooperation and confidence building on the basis of its values, norms and principles, enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act. The unification of German people through exercise of its right to self-determination a quarter of century ago and the emergence of dozens of new independent states since then became possible also through dialogue and cooperation within our Organization.

Mr. Chairman,

We appreciate the Chairmanship's resolve to support peaceful resolution of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict within its agreed format and through the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship. The situation on the Line of Contact between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan remains tense and escalated, due to continued cease-fire violations by Azerbaijan. We took note of the concerns expressed by Germany in this regard along with its favorable

attitude towards introduction of investigative mechanism into ceasefire violations and strengthening the capacities of the team of PRCiO, the only permanent presence in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone.

Unfortunately, the PRCiO office with its current capacities cannot sufficiently cope with evolving security needs, and the Organization's growing experience and expertise in the ceasefire monitoring should be fully used in Nagorno-Karabakh conflict environment as well. We encourage the Chairmanship to translate its positive attitude on CBMs and CSBMs into relevant initiatives.

The adherence to the ceasefire agreement is essential in maintaining peace process. The commitments on peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict have been undertaken by all participating states through the OSCE relevant documents. In this regard, the participating states particularly those who are neighboring the South Caucasus region should refrain from the action and rhetoric, which may endanger peace process and promote hostilities.

In this regard, we are particularly concerned with continued biased position of Turkey on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which once again was manifested in the recent statements made by high ranking officials during their visits to Baku.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to join the other speakers and express our deepest condolences to the families of the victims of the recent terrorist attack in Istanbul.

In light of the numerous terrorist attacks in the OSCE area and beyond we strongly endorse the intention of the Chairmanship to focus on the countering international terrorism. The implementation of two declarations, adopted in Belgrade will contribute to our efforts to fight the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, including by fully implementing relevant UNSC resolutions, with regard to ISIL, Al Nusrah Front and other terrorist groups associated with Al Qaeda.

We support the German Chairmanship's human dimension priorities such as freedom of media, freedom of assembly and association, tolerance and non-discrimination, rights of national minorities. The remembrance and education of Holocaust and other genocides can be an important contribution of the OSCE to the efforts of the international community to put an end to mass atrocities against ethnic and religious minorities, including Christians in Syria and Iraq.

In conclusion, we would like to thank the outgoing Serbian Chairmanship and to wish all success to Mr. Minister, Ambassador Pohl and to Your able and competent team.

Thank you.