



Statement

On the 3rd Global Forum Against the Crime of Genocide

ENGLISH only

**as delivered by Mr. Vahe Gevorgyan, Deputy Permanent Representative of Armenia at
the 1209th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
December 13, 2018**

Mr. Chair,

We would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the events, which took place in the framework of the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Convention of the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of This Crime, in Armenia.

On December 9-11, the 3rd Global Forum against the Crime of Genocide was held in Armenia. The Global Forum was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia with support of the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect and in cooperation with the International Association of Genocide Scholars.

The Global Forum brought together high level representatives of international and regional organizations, representatives of genocide remembrance and prevention networks, prominent scholars and representatives of academia and civil society from all over the world.

The Global Forum was opened by the address of the President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Zohrab Mnatsakanyan.

Minister Mnatsakanyan presented two-decade long efforts of Armenia to mainstream Genocide Prevention into the international agenda of crime suppression and protecting human rights, and expressed the readiness of Armenia to cooperate with all relevant international actors and stakeholders in this regard.

The Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser of the UN Secretary General on the Prevention of Genocide Adama Dieng, UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues Fernand de Varennes, Rapporteur of the General Committee on Democracy Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Kyriakos Kyriakou-Hadjiyianni, Chairperson of the Global Alliance Against Mass Atrocity Crimes--GAAMAC Môt Bleeker attended and contributed to the high-level segment of the Global Forum. The high-level segment was also addressed by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Dunja Mijatovic.

The education was the main theme of the 3rd Global Forum Against the Crime of Genocide and evolved around memory, arts, museums, human rights education in preventing Genocides and addressing special needs of its victims. Good practices of various educational institutions and museums were presented and exchanged among experts and practitioners.

There was also a strong emphasis on the evolving grave humanitarian situations including those related to the identity based violence against Yazidis and Rohingya people.

The plight of Rohingya people was underlined in other important event of memory, gratitude and humanitarian action, which took place in Armenia earlier this June. The 3rd annual Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity was awarded to Mr. Kyaw Hla Aung, a lawyer and activist recognized for his dedication to fighting for equality, education and human rights for the Rohingya people in Myanmar, in the face of persecution, harassment and oppression.

The Aurora Prize entails a cycle of donation in which three well-known humanitarian organizations Médecins Sans Frontières, Malaysian Medical Relief, International Catholic Migration Commission received one million dollar to assist their efforts aimed at saving Rohingya refugees.

In conclusion, we would like to stress that Armenia will continue its efforts in advancing Genocide Prevention in international fora including in the OSCE.

Thank you.