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

Statement

In response to Mr. Szabolcs Takacs, Chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and Ambassador Felix Klein Special Representative of Germany for Relations with Jewish Organizations delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 1086th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council January 21, 2015

We would like to thank State Secretary Szabolcs Takács and Ambassador Felix Klein for their thoughtful presentations on Commemoration of the Holocaust. Our thanks also go to the German Chairmanship for organizing these discussions on such a relevant topic.

On January 27th the humanity will commemorate the Holocaust Remembrance day. While paying tribute to 6 mln. Jews, exterminated by the Nazi regime we should also reassert our commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms and particularly to the protection of vulnerable racial, religious, ethnic and national groups to make sure that the horrors of Genocide and crimes against humanity never happen again.

Genocide remembrance and education are part of OSCE commitments, strongly interlinked with security. We appreciate that the Chairmanship marks the commencement of our work in 2016 by invoking Holocaust remembrance which shows that Germany leads by its example when it comes to peace and reconciliation. This should be taken into consideration by those who condone, trivialize, deny and even justify the facts of genocide.

Education on and remembrance of the Holocaust and other genocides is particularly relevant in our days as we witness mass atrocities of the ethnic and religious minorities in Syria and Iraq . 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 particular groups, which are facing existential threats.

Mr. Chairman,

Armenia is a staunch advocate of genocide remembrance and prevention. Last year 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.

It is by remembering victims of Holocaust that we also prevent new genocides or their recurrence. We should make further efforts to implement the OSCE commitments on remembrance and education of Holocaust and other genocides.

Thank You.