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

Statement
in response to the address by the Chairperson-in-Office,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, H.E. Audronius Ažubalis
delivered by Ambassador Ashot Hovakimian
at the 846th (Special) Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
13 January 2011

Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to warmly welcome Chairperson in Office of the OSCE, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania His Excellency Mr. Audronius Ažubalis and thank him for a comprehensive presentation of priorities of Lithuania and the manner in which Lithuanian Chairmanship in Office is going to lead this Organisation in 2011.

This year is a special one for my country, since we will be celebrating, together with many other our colleagues around this table, the 20th anniversary of independence of our countries. Therefore we are very much pleased to see Lithuania as a leader of the OSCE community, with whom we share common history, where the destiny of a nation was seriously influenced by geopolitical calculations of others, where nations have been divided based on arbitrary decisions, and with whom we share struggle for democracy and state building. We have been and are determined to build new era of democracy, stability and prosperity, where dividing lines are unthinkable, where fundamental human rights are at the core of our societies, where use or threat of force is unacceptable. With this kind of conviction and determination Armenia is looking forward to work with Lithuanian Chairmanship and with all partners in the OSCE to make our common goal of prosperous OSCE area a reality. Though, unfortunately, we still witness the consequences of those arbitrary decisions in some areas of the OSCE.

Your Excellency, we followed attentively your statement and got acquainted with great anticipation with 2011 Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship Work Programme. Almost all priorities of Lithuanian chairmanship are consonant with our own perception of the role and activities of this Organisation, and in this regard we are ready to engage ourselves in constructive and co-operative manner in accomplishing goals ahead of us. At the same time let me share with you couple of our observations and comments.

We are convinced that during the coming months we have to concentrate on elaborating those issues which enjoyed broad consensus among participating States and which have been identified during the preparation process of Astana Summit. This might be done through a follow-up process within existing formats in line with Astana Summit Declaration. Conducting such a follow-up in informal bodies of the PC and FSC could also be considered.

It goes without saying that conflict related issues remain high on the agenda of this Organisation. In Astana Declaration our leaders once again clearly expressed their determination to resolve existing conflicts, including Nagorno Karabakh conflict, in peaceful and negotiated manner, within agreed formats, fully respecting the norms and principles of international law, while pledging to refrain from the threat or use of force. In this context we fully share approaches set forth by the Lithuanian Chairmanship and we will extend our support in the future undertakings based on those approaches.

On Nagorno Karabakh conflict we are pleased to learn Lithuanian Chairmanship's attitude in working in a balanced and even-handed manner with all parties to the conflict and Minsk Group Co-Chairs. We are also convinced that ensuring continuity of past Chairmanships' approaches and following the spirit and formulations adopted previously will contribute to Lithuania's success in addressing this complex issue.

Armenia always advocates introduction and implementation of confidence and security building measures as prerequisite to build trust between the parties and ease the tension on the ground. In this regard we welcome Chairmanship's initiative to invite all parties to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict to consider options of confidence-building measures and strengthening the OSCE monitoring activities on the line of contact.

Dear colleagues, I do not want to reply again to the usual and repetitive allegations of Azerbaijani delegation towards Armenia and Armenians, because it will be a waste of your precious time. Unfortunately, I have to state that there is still no sign of any constructive approach to address the pertinent issue.

Mr. Chairperson,

It is our delegation's long standing position that all three dimensions of the OSCE should be equally and even-handedly dealt with without prioritising one against another and in that context our delegation will do it utmost to support the Chairmanship in that exercise.

We also would like to indicate few points that have merits to be discussed and thoroughly considered during our work in 2011. Specifically we would like to mention issues related to necessary steps to strengthen the effectiveness of the Organization, including, addressing the legal aspects of the Organisation, specifically, the question of constituent document. Furthermore, revitalizing and updating of the political military-dimension of the OSCE, including conventional arms control and confidence and security-building regimes, should become an important issue, since those tools remain major instruments for ensuring military stability, predictability and transparency. In this context we would like to see a closer interaction between the Permanent Council and FSC.

Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to use this opportunity to extend our appreciation to the outgoing Troika member Greece for the tireless efforts and dedication to values and purposes of our Organisation. One should acknowledge, that the Corfu process

that we have embarked on so energetically and enthusiastically for the last two years, have been initiated by the Greek Chairmanship.

In conclusion we would like to once again thank you, Your Excellency, for your address and assure that Armenian Delegation will work closely and intensively with your dedicated team here, lead by our colleague and friend Ambassador Norkus.

We also would like to wish Lithuanian Chairmanship and all of us every success.

I thank you Mr. Chairperson.