



Statement

On the Latest Developments in Armenia

as delivered by **Ambassador Arman Kirakossian, Permanent Representative of Armenia,**
at the 1185rd Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
May 10, 2018

Mr. Chair,

In follow up to the statement delivered by the delegation of Armenia on April 26 at the Permanent Council, we would like to update the Permanent Council on the latest developments in Armenia.

As it was referred in our statement, on April 25 President Armen Sarkissian launched inclusive political consultations and dialogue among stakeholders to find ways to move forward with regard to the formation of a new Government. It was stressed that there was a clear consensus among all stakeholders that all issues should be addressed within the Constitutional framework.

In line with the legislation, the National Assembly of Armenia convened two special sessions wherein the election of new Prime Minister was considered. As a result, on May 8 the National Assembly elected, the leader of the opposition Nikol Pashinyan as Prime Minister and at the same day the President of Armenia confirmed the decision of the Parliament.

Thus, the democratic movement, which enjoyed unequivocal support of the people of Armenia, achieved its landmark outcome.

We have already had an opportunity to present the actions of the Armenian authorities to uphold all fundamental freedoms including rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression. Now let me add that along with those fundamental freedoms, Armenia, its duty bearers and right holders, upheld and realized one of the most important rights-the right of people to take part in the Government.

It is important to note that all those rights were realized in peaceful and non-violent manner in line and within the Constitutional framework of Armenia. The popular movement which was defined by its leader Nikol Pashinyan as “revolution of love and tolerance” did not divide but unite the people of Armenia.

Armenia has emerged from this challenge with a clear societal consensus on democracy, good governance and human rights. This consensus reinforces already existing one on the foreign policy and the peaceful resolution of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and the Armenian people are united today in achieving their national aspirations as never before.

In concluding, we would like to thank again all our international partners for their impartial and balanced attitude, which helped the people of Armenia to open up new page in the development of democracy and statehood.

Thank you

Right of Reply

Mr. Chair,

Once again, I would like to thank the delegations of the US, Bulgaria on behalf of the EU and aligned countries, Russia and Kazakhstan for their words of support, which are important in this crucial juncture.

As for the statement made by the Azerbaijani delegation, I did not have the intention to discuss the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict under this current issue. However, since comments were made by Azerbaijan, let me underline the following:

All leaders of the Republic of Armenia have been visiting and attending remembrance and celebration ceremonies in Nagorno-Karabakh. They visited upon the invitation of the authorities of Nagorno-Karabakh who are recognized by Armenia as the only representatives of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh.

I do not want to go in length in presenting the position of new Armenian authorities on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict resolution. There would be more appropriate opportunities in this regard. For the time being, I would refer to my initial statement, which maintains that there is a strong consensus in Armenia on necessity of peaceful resolution of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Thank you.