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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
TO THE OSCE

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STATEMENT

by Ambassador Andranik Hovhannisyan

at the OSCE 2026 Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting

16 November 2026

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of Armenia thanks the Swiss Chairpersonship and the Office of the Co-Ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities for organizing this meeting.

Connectivity is one of those unique areas that most clearly embodies the fundamental relationship between the two core pillars of the OSCE - security and cooperation. It is a means of strengthening mutually beneficial economic cooperation, fostering good-neighbourly relations, building confidence and enhancing trust throughout the OSCE area. This commitment is firmly rooted in the Hamburg Ministerial Council Decision.

At the same time, the promotion of connectivity within the OSCE should not be reduced to a political exercise or treated as a process detached from economic rationale. On the contrary, the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension clearly underscores the importance of construction of new transport routes, where this can be economically justified.

Therefore, all-encompassing dialogue and genuine cooperation, grounded in the OSCE's commitments, are indispensable to any connectivity-related undertaking. It should ensure that connectivity projects are inclusive, equitable and mutually beneficial. It should bring countries together rather than create new dividing lines.

Another important dimension of the OSCE's engagement is capacity-building and technical assistance to participating States in ensuring the smooth, efficient and sustainable operation of connectivity routes. This includes promoting trade facilitation measures that make customs, administrative and regulatory procedures more transparent, harmonized, simplified and predictable; and strengthening cross-border and regional dialogue and cooperation among competent authorities and the private sector.

We believe that the OSCE has a distinct comparative advantage in designing and implementing such projects, including in our region, the South Caucasus, which is gradually emerging as an important transit crossroad within the broader OSCE area.

Mr. Chairperson,

The establishment of peace in our region is opening new prospects for strengthening trade, transport, digital and energy connectivity, linking Europe through the South Caucasus with Central Asia. Situated at the heart of our region, Armenia has historically played an important role in international trade and possesses considerable potential to contribute to new and ambitious connectivity initiatives.

The Government of Armenia's "Crossroads of Peace" initiative reflects this vision. It seeks to advance regional and international connectivity, facilitate trade and unlock new opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation. We view connectivity not merely as an engine of economic growth, but also as a strategic instrument for consolidating lasting peace.

In this context, the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP) represents an important step forward. This multimodal transit route, developed by Armenia and the United States of America, is envisaged serving as a crucial link connecting countries across the region and beyond.

We are pleased to note the tangible progress achieved this year in advancing this initiative. In January, Armenia and the United States published the TRIPP Implementation Framework. This was followed, in June, by the signing of the Framework Agreement on Strategic Cooperation. Most recently, on 7 November Armenia, the United States and Azerbaijan launched Trilateral Technical Planning Groups tasked with addressing technical issues related to transportation and electricity transmission.

Grounded in the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and national jurisdiction, TRIPP holds considerable potential to strengthen international, inter-State and intra-State connectivity, facilitate regional and global trade, and contribute to lasting peace, stability and prosperity in the South Caucasus.

Thank you.