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

Statement
in Response to the Chairs of the Three Committees
delivered by Permanent Delegation of Armenia at the 1133rd Meeting of the
OSCE Permanent Council
February 9, 2017

Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to warmly welcome the new Chairs of the three committees Ambassadors Steffen Kongstad, Kairat Sarybay and Sian Macleod and congratulate them on assumption of their responsible mission. We thank them for outlining working plans of their respective committees. Our thanks go to previous Committee Chairs Ambassadors Cristian Istrate, Vuk Zugic and Katja Pehrman for their efforts and dedication in leading the Committees.

At the outset we would like to stress the importance of clear link between the work plans of the Committees and priorities of the OSCE Austrian Chairmanship. We have already elaborated in details our position and expectations in regard to the activities of the three Committees, therefore we will focus on the most important issues.

We endorse the intention of the Norwegian Chairmanship to keep high in the agenda of the Committee the topic of violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism with focus on youth. In this vein, we attach high importance to thorough implementation of all our commitments in the field of counter-terrorism undertaken in Basel, Belgrade and Hamburg in particular with respect to numerous atrocities committed by ISIL, Al Nusra Front and terrorist groups associated with Al Qaida. Armenia places high value on full implementation of the first and second set of Confidence building measures to reduce the risks stemming from the use of ICTs. In this regard, we firmly believe that the unique niche of the OSCE should be further strengthened and developed. We took positive note that the SSG/R topic will be accordingly featured in the work of the committee.

As for the second dimension, we took positive note of the work plan of the Committee. We would like to encourage the Kazakh Chairmanship to streamline the topics of building economic partnerships in conflict regions and promoting connectivity as confidence building measure in the activities of the Committee. In this regard we deem it important to incorporate in the activities of the Committee the topic of economic rights of the people residing in conflict areas. Promoting the right to development in conflict areas bears essential confidence building potential.

As for the third dimension work plan as it stands we are ready to constructively engage in discussions within the thematic priorities of the UK Chairmanship.

At the same time we fully endorse the view of the Austrian Chairmanship that safety and security of conflict affected population should be a priority. Human, economic and cultural rights of millions of people, residing in conflict areas throughout the OSCE region, including their right to life are constantly being violated. This significant portion of the OSCE population remains excluded from the OSCE activities, including those aimed at promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms. We hope the Austrian Chairmanship will address this problem also by presenting inclusive human dimension programme, which will provide opportunity to discuss human rights of people residing in conflict areas, as the category of population, most suffering of the conflict.

We took note of the proposals of some delegations to organize specific tailor-made events within human dimension to serve to propagation of their conflict perceptions. We will not be in position to support organization of political events on internal displacement within human dimension, as it was the case last year. Protracted displacement is a matter of discussion within agreed formats of the Organization.

In conclusion, we would like to wish the distinguished Chairs all success in their endeavours.

Thank You.