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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

Statement

**In response to the Secretary General of the International
Holocaust Remembrance Alliance on the
occasion of the commemoration of the
International Holocaust Remembrance Day
as delivered by the Delegation of Armenia
at the 1352th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**

27 January 2022

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation warmly welcomes at the Permanent Council Dr. Kathrin Meyer, Secretary General of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and thanks her for her remarks.

Madame Secretary General,

Since 2005, every year, on 27 January, we, pay tribute to the memory of victims of the Holocaust, a crime against humanity that was recognized and condemned by the international community, and the perpetrators of which received their well-deserved and ultimate punishment. However, it is important to note that this was mainly due to the fact that the masterminds and perpetrators of this monstrous crime failed. As a result, many of them were prosecuted and convicted, their poisonous ideology was widely condemned and largely eradicated. Unfortunately, we must admit that from time to time we see some similar manifestations in different parts of the world.

The *en masse* and systematic nature of the committed crime and the lack of adequate international legal instruments at that time prompted some righteous people to coin a term that would describe such crimes the Holocaust and other similar crimes of the past, including the annihilation of one and a half million Armenians, which later became known as the Armenian Genocide. Subsequently, international legal instruments were developed to prevent the recurrence of such crimes against humanity.

As Martin Luther King said, “Morality cannot be legislated, but behaviour can be regulated. Laws may not change hearts, but they can restrain the heartless...”. Indeed,

the 1948 Genocide Convention, drafted by Raphael Lemkin, was an invaluable step towards making this world a better and safer place, and that our promise of “Never again” is not just a promise, but rather an action.

Unfortunately, since then the international community has been unable to eliminate the recurrences of the crime of genocide. Instead, we see some politicians trying to misuse the term of genocide through fictional narratives and falsifications. The recent violence in our region has brought to mind the horrors of past atrocities and once again demonstrated the urgent need to identify the failures faced by international mechanisms and the necessity to further strengthen the capacity to prevent genocides.

Mr. Chairman,

We know from our own history and experience that denial creates fertile ground for the recurrence of the crime, and silence prevents wounds from healing. Indeed, justice delayed is justice denied. In this regard, we have a joint mission to deliver the justice that the victims and their descendants deserve, including through recognition, accountability, truth, guarantees of non-recurrence and preservation of historical memory.

It is for this reason that, as a nation that went through the horrors of genocide, Armenia became one of the strongest advocates for the prevention of the crime of genocide, submitting draft resolutions on genocide since 1998, shortly after regaining its independence. Armenia also initiated the resolution on the “International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of Prevention of This Crime”, adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly on 11 September 2015. Armenia is privileged and honoured to be among those who spare no effort to prevent the risk of recurrence of the crime of Genocide.

In closing, I would like to once again thank you, Madame Secretary General, for your address and wish you every success in your future endeavors.

Thank you.