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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 President of the Republic**  
**of Lithuania H.E. Dalia Grybauskaitė**  
**delivered by Ambassador Ashot Hovakimian**  
**at the 858<sup>th</sup> (Special) Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**  
**13 April 2011**

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to the President of the Republic of Lithuania H.E. Dalia Grybauskaitė for her address and for presenting Lithuanian Chairmanship's vision on the work ahead of us.

We are pleased to reiterate that Lithuanian Chairmanship's priorities and agenda for the OSCE 2011 are mainly consonant with our own. Our Delegation is ready to engage itself in constructive and co-operative manner to successfully accomplish our common goals.

Lithuania was the first country to recognize Armenia's independence in 1991 and the first one to conclude an interstate agreement with us. Since then we have enjoyed a high level of bilateral political cooperation and productive interaction in international organizations. It is symbolic that Lithuanian Foreign Minister, our Chairman-in-Office H.E. Audronius Ažubalis celebrated National Day of Lithuania in Yerevan, during his recent visit to Armenia. We believe that the upcoming visit of the President of Republic of Lithuania to Armenia will give another impetus for enhancing cooperation between our two countries.

Mr. Chairman,

One of the priorities of the Lithuanian Chairmanship relates to exploring the ways on more active role for the OSCE in addressing protracted conflicts. In this regard Armenia advocates for tailor made approaches for each conflict, taking into account their specifics and in all times acting within the framework of the agreed formats. Initiatives outside of the internationally recognized mechanisms, as well as introduction of artificial timeframes may threaten the peace process as a whole.

Armenia has been advocating for a more active and streamlined introduction and application of CSBMs, particularly in the zones of protracted conflicts and perhaps the OSCE Chairmanship can play an important role in invoking such mechanisms, including through the status neutral dialogue.

Recently the OSCE Chairman-in-Office reiterated the proposal to withdraw snipers from the Line of Contact between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan, something continuously called throughout last years by international community, including the UN

Secretary-General and Minsk Group Co-chairs. Armenian side has positively replied to that proposal.

Likewise, the Armenian MFA immediately welcomed the recent statement of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs concerning the creation of an investigation mechanism to assess the incidents on the Line of Contact. These proposals, once implemented, could contribute to the building of trust and confidence between all parties concerned.

Armenia's approaches on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict resolution ran in line with the documents adopted in the OSCE framework - ministerial meetings in Helsinki, Athens, and OSCE Summit in Astana, as well as statements by the heads of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries at G8 Summits in L'Acquila 2009, and Muskoka 2010.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, let me assure the distinguished President that Lithuanian Chairmanship, and in particular the Lithuanian team in Vienna, under the able leadership of Ambassador Norkus, can count on Armenia's continued support to the steps aimed at strengthening the efficiency and role of the OSCE.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.