

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Warsaw September 23, 2019

Working Session 10 Rule of Law: Independence of the judiciary, Democratic law-making,
Ensuring equal enjoyment of rights and equal participation in political and public life
As delivered by Ms. Lilit Grigoryan, Head of the OSCE and Conventional Arms Control
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Mr. Moderator,

The advancement of the rule of law and democracy is at core of the policies of the Government of Armenia.

It is necessary to note, that after the non-violent, Velvet revolution, the newly elected Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan immediately raised the issue of the restoration of public trust towards the independence of judiciary and judicial system. The New Government proclaimed the rehabilitation and advancement of the independence of judicial system as its priority.

The Prime Minister of Armenia has emphasized that having a truly independent and impartial judicial system is a vital necessity for Armenia, and the lack of such a system is a serious challenge. The Prime Minister has underlined that there cannot be such a judicial system the power of which does not stem from the people.

The road to eliminating of unlawful practices within judicial system, recovering it and reaching the trust of the public, the Government views through the judicial and anticorruption reforms. During this time a very effective cooperation was established with the specialized bodies of the Council of Europe, including the Venice Commission, as well as with UN Development Program and the European Union.

With the participation of international partners, representatives of civil society, the Government now finalizes the reform packages in these two directions. In September the strategic documents will be confirmed, and during the autumn session core legislative packages would be presented to the National Assembly which will include but won't be limited with the amendments to the Judicial Code, to the Laws on Corruption Prevention Committee and Public Service and with the adoption of new law on Anti-Corruption Committee.

The ongoing changes are profound and irreversible in Armenia. The changes are initiated by the Government which has the strong mandate and legitimacy entrusted by the people of Armenia.

In conclusion we would like to encourage ODHIR to continue to support participating States to measure progress on rule of law, democracy and human rights and to mobilize independent civil society in these efforts.

Mr. Moderator,

The representative of the so called Civil Society of Azerbaijan took the liberty to refer to the ongoing democratic processes in my country. What is happening in Armenia we understand, is beyond the reach of Azerbaijan. And it is difficult to explain to Azerbaijani representatives given the fact that they are being ruled by the hereditary and repressive regime for decades.

Thank you.