

## **Right of Reply by the Delegation of the Republic of Armenia**

### **Working session 3: Democratic Institutions, including:**

- **Democracy at the national, regional and local levels**
- **Democratic elections**

*Delivered by Ms. Hasmik SIMONYAN, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia*

Mr. Moderator,

With regard to the comments of the Azerbaijani delegation, I would recommend that delegation to refrain from giving out desirable for valid. It should be once again reiterated that 27 years ago, exercising their constitutional right to self-determination, the people of Nagorno Karabakh developed effectively functioning democratic state institutions, organized their public life through free and fair democratic order, whereby elections have been regularly conducted and monitored by various international observers. The recent local elections on 8<sup>th</sup> of September were described as free, transparent and held in an atmosphere of mutual respect as stated by various observation missions, including from Transparency International and a CSO, which was granted democracy defender award by 36 OSCE participating States.

Presidential and parliamentary elections are scheduled for the next year, which will be another step to building a truly democratic country.

Thank you.