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PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF
ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

Statement

**as delivered by Ambassador Armen Papikyan
at the 1073rd Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation
Closing Session**

13 March 2024

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, allow me to extend our warm welcome to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Andreas Louka. Thank you very much for coming and thank you for your closing remarks.

The delegation of Armenia congratulates Cyrus on its successful Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation. We commend its dedication and tireless efforts aimed at steering our work during these challenging times and ensuring meaningful discussions on pertinent political-military issues.

In this vein, we highlight the Security Dialogues on Women Peace and Security and implementation of International Humanitarian Law with an emphasis on armed conflict and conflict situations, which are highly relevant topics in the wider security policy context and in particular with regard to the challenges and threats in our region.

During and after the illegal wars of aggression against Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, in violation of the UN charter, the Helsinki Final act, we have witnessed unconscionable violations of the principles of international humanitarian law in particular, deliberate targeting of civilians, cases of gender-based violence, ethnic cleansing, unlawful abductions, torture and inhuman treatment towards POWs, to name a few. We are convinced that extermination of the entire population and deprivation of their right to live a free, safe and decent life in their homeland should not and cannot be unpunished. In this regard, the posturing of a silent observer by this organisation sets extremely dangerous precedent for other conflict situations. Our firm position is that under no pretext the use of force can be justified, nor can the realities created as a result of it be considered as a sustainable solution to the conflicts.

Mr. Chair,

We hope that the upcoming chairpersonships will build upon the established practice, keeping focus on the above mentioned extremely pertinent topics which require consistent attention and reflection, as thousands of people across the world continue to suffer from armed conflicts and conflict situations. In the meantime, it is equally important to empower women and girls also as agents of peace and equal partners in preventing violent conflicts and in contributing to the lasting and durable settlements.

Dear colleagues,

During the past few months the security situation in our region remained volatile, which is a result of constant security threats we have been facing due to the continued occupation of around 200 square kilometers of Armenia's sovereign territories and the military provocations conducted from the positions stationed in those territories.

In spite of those challenges, we reiterate Armenia's steadfast commitment to establishing lasting peace and stability in the South Caucasus based on the agreements reflected in the statements adopted in quadrilateral meetings in Prague in October 2022 and in Granada last autumn, as well as the trilateral meetings in Brussels on May and July, 2023.

Recent steps taken by Armenia aimed at establishing an atmosphere conducive to peace, reconfirms Armenia's genuine engagement into the efforts to reach durable solutions to all outstanding issues, based on the respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries of the region. But to achieve this overarching goal the engagement in good faith is required from all parties. Armenia also needs the strong support of international actors to achieve this goal.

In closing, I would like to reiterate our gratitude to the Chairpersonship of Cyprus, for the effective cooperation. We look forward to working with the incoming chairpersonship of Croatia, dear Mario, and we welcome Denmark as a new Troika member. We also thank our good friend, Ambassador of Canada, dear Jocelyn, for tireless efforts.

Thank you.