

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Opening Statement

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As delivered by

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Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to start by expressing my gratitude and appreciation to the hosts of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, namely the Government of Poland and ODIHR. Furthermore, our thanks go to the German Chairmanship for setting a common agenda that should be thoroughly addressed throughout our deliberations.

My delegation particularly values the opportunity to address the issues related to the full implementation of the International Covenants on Human Rights and empowering their rights holders, election observation, tolerance and non-discrimination, freedom of religion and protection of religious groups, freedom of expression and protection of journalists, combating torture and other degrading treatment in the OSCE area.

In our view, these themes are intrinsic part of comprehensive security. In paying particular attention to these fundamental freedoms, we are sending a strong message of embedding the protection of human rights into the overall European security.

In summarizing last year discussions my delegation stressed at the HDIM closing session and I quote: “These discussions reaffirmed that the countries who violate human rights in systematic and unapologetic manner are tend to be a part of problem not solution when it comes to the conflict resolution as well. The case of Azerbaijan is very illustrative here”

This April large scale offensive of Azerbaijani armed forces in Nagorno-Karabakh and committed atrocities against civilians of Nagorno-Karabakh confirmed our concerns and proved once again that the Azerbaijani leadership nurtures “final solution” of the conflict through complete extermination of the people of NK.

Regrettably, the pressing issue of the human rights of people living in conflict zones does not gain adequate attention in the OSCE. During the HDIM my delegation will seek ways of streamlining this issue in the activities of the OSCE institutions, in particular the ODIHR.

Armenia strongly condemns all atrocities and identity based human rights violations. Last year the international community marked December 9 as the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of Victims of the Crime of Genocide and Prevention of this Crime. The UN General

Assembly resolution which set up this very day clearly established the link between remembrance and duty of memory on one side and genocide prevention and reconciliation on the other side.

This year Armenia along with other participating states commemorated 101 anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. We are ready to further mainstream our efforts in preventing Genocide and related crimes with all participating states.

In concluding let me refer to the modalities of our participation to the HDIM. Armenia is ready to engage in mutual monitoring with all OSCE participating states without exception as well as to enter into dialogue with representatives of independent civil society. What we are not ready is to entertain organizations which are created to occupy the place of the independent civil society.

Finally in response to the statement made by Azerbaijani delegation, we call on Azerbaijan instead of coming with another proposal of prohibition of the participation of the mentioned NGO to contribute towards confidence building measures between civil societies of Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan and Armenia

With this in mind we welcome all participants of HDIM and look forward to the meaningful dialogue.

Thank you.