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DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

Statement

**Delivered by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Arman Kirakossian
at the Opening Session of the ASRC
23 June, 2009**

Madam Chairperson,

Please allow us from the outset to thank H.E. Sergey Lavrov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Russian Federation for the eloquent elaboration on the current state of affairs around European security as well as for outlining its future perspectives.

The European security architecture, gains increasing significance in our deliberations in the light of the recent threats and challenges which we all have faced. The European security arrangements, to which the OSCE has made significant contribution, has played considerable role in preserving stability and sustainable development of the continent during and after the Cold War. However, we believe that since the establishment of the framework of our common security arrangements, the durable system of collective security perhaps has never been as essential as it is now. The new challenges and threats as well as rapidly evolving international situation require fresh attitude and approaches to adequately meet and address current security requirements. Perhaps one of the reasons of present state of affairs around security architecture in Europe is exactly the lack of flexibility for adapting to new realities. Indeed security arrangements of the past century have their deep roots in the reality which no longer exists, thus it needs serious reinvigoration and revitalization to maintain what has already been achieved and to develop in order to fulfill changing security requirements.

We can not but agree with the assertion that the security of our states is indivisible, and the frameworks in which security arrangements operate are closely intertwined. The security of one participating State or a group of them can not be built at the expense of others. Therefore, we strongly advocate for the equitable and balanced security frameworks with the mutually reinforcing character. The full adherence to the agreed norms and principles in their entirety and equal value is imperative for safeguarding viability of the European security architecture. Thus, we firmly reject selective propagation of some principles at the expense of others. Singling out any principle in itself questions the validity and undermines the whole framework of comprehensive security.

Madam Chairperson,

The future of European security can only be safeguarded through transparent and candid dialogue revealing all open and unresolved issues, but also identifying gaps and failures and the means to tackle them in the best possible way. The OSCE through its negotiation mechanisms is very well placed to carry those discussions. The Forum

for Security Cooperation provides a unique platform for deliberations on the future of arms control, including issues related to the possible new European security Treaty. The only fact that participating states will resolve to entrust that deliberations to this organization itself may play a decisive role in keeping its spirit alive and principles applied while the deliberations will evolve. But before that, we think, it would not be unreasonable to expect from all participating States full and unconditional implementation of their commitments. We believe any steps on the future of the European security will be based on the realistic and fair assessment of current state of affairs around undertaken obligations. We will all benefit if it will be safe from shortcomings and failures.

Finally, Madam Chairperson, it is our conviction that the OSCE should continue to play a central role in the conflict settlement cycle in its area. The existing negotiation formats and arrangements should be preserved and continue to enjoy full trust and confidence of the parties to the conflicts as well as the organization itself. Any discussions on the future of the European security can not prejudge the outcome of negotiations or predetermine their future.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.