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

Statement

**On the Commemoration of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day
delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 1035th Meeting of the
OSCE Permanent Council**

January 22, 2015

We would like to thank Sir Andrew Burns and Ambassador Roksanda Ninčić for their thoughtful presentations in Commemoration of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

On 27 of January the humanity will pay tribute to 6 mln. Jews, exterminated under Nazi regime. By commemorating the victims of Holocaust Remembrance Day we should reassert our commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms and particularly to the protection of racial, religious, ethnic and national groups. We must also make sure that the new generations know their history and horrors of crimes against humanity.

Holocaust as a genocide of the 20th century established important standards for addressing the issues of genocide denial and remembrance. Education on and remembrance of the Holocaust and other genocides is key to understanding and preventing future genocides. Likewise, disregarding the lessons of history, the genocide denial, not only allow crimes to go unrecognized and unpunished, but also may encourage other dictatorial regimes to perpetrate new crimes against humanity.

It is useful to recall the statement of Adolf Hitler pronounced on August 22, 1939 in Obersalzberg at the eve of Nazi genocidal actions “Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?”¹

In this regard the Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Most Reverend Archbishop Emeritus Desmond M. Tutu wrote: “And yet it is possible that if the world had been conscious of the genocide that was committed against the Armenians, the first genocide of the twentieth century, then perhaps humanity might have been more alert to the warning

¹ Akten zur deutschen auswärtigen Politik 1918-1945, Serie D (1937-1945), Bd. VII: Die letzten Wochen vor Kriegsausbruch. 9. August bis 3. September 1939, Nr. 193 Signatur(en): SEL B 2388; Rubinstein, William D. Genocide. New York: Routledge, 2004, p. 141; Albrecht, Richard. Crimes against Mankind, Humanity and Civilization. München: Grin Verlag, 2007, p. 65; Totten, Samuel and Bartrop, Paul R. Dictionary of Genocide. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2008, Vol. 2, p. 470.

signs that were being given before Hitler's madness was unleashed on an unbelieving world."²

Duty of memory and right to the truth are indispensable for preventing crimes against humanity and paving the path of reconciliation.

Thank You.

² Tutu, Desmond M. Foreword: Why it is important to Learn about the Holocaust and the Genocides of All Peoples? In: Charny, Israel, W. (Ed.). Encyclopedia of Genocide. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 1999, Vol. 1, p. LVII.