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

Statement
On the Programme Outline
delivered by Permanent Delegation of Armenia at the 1149th Meeting of the OSCE
Permanent Council
June 08, 2017

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to thank the distinguished Secretary General for presentation of the Programme Outline for the year 2018.

First of all, we would like to draw attention to the Horizontal issues. The long standing issue of illegal compensation of the local staff income tax and accumulated arrears remain unsolved, despite clear-cut commitments under OSCE Staff Regulations and Rules, which have no time limitation. Inability of the Secretariat to ensure compliance of certain participating States to OSCE commitments when it comes to contribution of all participating States to the OSCE, affects the cooperative spirit of the budget cycle.

In our view programmatic activities of the OSCE institutions particularly the ODIHR and RFOM should encompass entire OSCE region without any areas of exclusion. The OSCE commitments should be implemented throughout the OSCE and these institutions are entitled to provide assistance to the relevant authorities and civil society without any politicization. The human rights of people residing in conflict areas should be one of the priority areas of the institutions.

Armenia reiterates its principal position of full support to the OSCE mandates related to the NK conflict resolution, particularly OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the PRCiO. Armenia will continue to advocate extension of human, financial and technological capacities of the PRCiO with the view of enabling proper implementation of its mandate, in particular conducting confidence building measures including efficient monitoring of the ceasefire regime.

Regrettably, the actual Programme Outline of the PRCiO is again missing from the document. We call on the Secretariat and the Chairmanship to recover the long standing definition of the PO of the PRCiO. Once the PRCiO Programme Outline is issued, the Delegation of Armenia will be in position to present its comments on it and accordingly engage in discussions on the funds necessary to implement the programme. At this stage , we would confine ourselves to reiterating our support to the implementation of the

agreements reached at the Vienna and St. Petersburg Summits which envisages strengthening of monitoring capacities of the PRCiO in the conflict area.

We encourage the HLPG to continue its activities strictly in line with its mandate on elaborating options of military peacekeeping operation. The current composition of the HLPG is a source of serious concern. Therefore the HLPG should be staffed in such a way to enjoy the trust of all participating States particularly all parties to the conflict and be able to proceed in neutral and impartial manner in the very sensitive environment of the conflict. Therefore certain rectification is needed.

Finally, we would like to refer to the closure of the OSCE Office in Yerevan as a result of the refusal of Azerbaijan to extend its mandate. We deplore continued reduction of the OSCE presence in the South Caucasus initiated by Azerbaijan since 2013.

Armenia is ready to consider the continuation of the OSCE projects in all three dimensions in other organizational modalities. We count on support of the Chairmanship, Secretary General and all interested participating states.

Thank You.