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

Statement

**In Response to the Director of the OSCE ODIHR M.G.Link
delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 1096th Meeting of the OSCE
Permanent Council
April 14, 2016**

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to warmly welcome distinguished director of the ODIHR Mr. Michael George Link and thank him for thoughtful report.

We would like to commend the constructive and result-oriented cooperation between the Armenian authorities and the ODIHR and the latter's assistance to Armenia in implementation of the human dimension commitments.

Taking this opportunity we would like to thank the ODIHR for its positive response to the invitation of the Government of Armenia to observe the Referendum on Constitutional amendments, which took place on December 6 and sending expert team. Following the referendum the relevant Armenian authorities engaged in active cooperation with your esteemed institution with the view to address recommendations, contained in the ODIHR's Final report and further improve conduct of elections in Armenia. A number of events were organized in Armenia with participation of ODIHR experts, including the Expert Seminar on New Voting Technologies. At the request of the Government of Armenia ODIHR undertook expert assessment of the Draft Electoral Code.

Mr. Chairman,

The primary value and cornerstone of ODIHR is its impartiality and objectivity. We believe that its agenda of ODIHR activities should in no way be politicized. The situation, when OSCE participating States implement their commitments in good faith, while some enjoy the benefits of their unconstructive stance and blackmailing is not acceptable.

I do not mean that we are going to follow these examples and adopt the same rules of game. But we will not accept abuse of our constructive attitude and attempts to

reward certain participating States at the expense of our national interests and OSCE values.

We stand ready to continue cooperation with ODIHR within our policy of further strengthening democracy, rule of law and human rights in Armenia.

Thank You.