

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/1406/21  
13 September 2021

ENGLISH only



ԵԱՀԿ-ՈՒՄ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՄՇՏԱԿԱՆ ՆԵՐԿԱՅԱՑՈՒՑՉՈՒԹՅ  
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

**STATEMENT**  
**as delivered by the Delegation of Armenia at the 2021 Annual Security Review Conference**

**Working session II: Transnational threats - current and future trends  
in the OSCE area and beyond  
01 September 2021**

Mr. Moderator,

First, allow me to thank our keynote speakers for their remarks.

Transnational threats continue to pose a serious threat to the security of participating States, both at national and international levels, and effectively addressing such threats requires responsible state behavior, strong multilateralism and enhanced co-operation.

In 2020, at the Tirana Ministerial Council, the OSCE participating States reaffirmed their commitment to countering transnational organized crime and keeping it among the priorities of our organization. This was a major achievement for the OSCE, taking into account the atmosphere of growing mistrust and divisions among participating States. The subsequent discussions during the first half of the year demonstrated that the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Co-operation in Countering Transnational Organized Crime provides a solid basis for future work in this direction, and Armenia attaches great importance to strengthening international efforts to combat transnational threats, including money laundering, corruption and terrorism which are usually inextricably interconnected.

Mr. Moderator,

During last year's ASRC meeting, my delegation alerted OSCE participating States to the imminent threat that foreign terrorist fighters pose to the security of the OSCE region. Only three months later, we witnessed how two OSCE participating States, namely Turkey and Azerbaijan, instrumentalized foreign terrorist fighters, recruiting and transferring them to the OSCE region to support Azerbaijan in its war against Nagorno-Karabakh.

Up to 4,000 foreign terrorist fighters were recruited and transferred by Turkey to Azerbaijan, a fact that was publicly confirmed by world leaders, heads of intelligence services, international media representatives and experts, as well as foreign terrorist fighters

themselves in their testimonies during interrogations and interviews. This fact was also recognized by the United Nations Working Group on the use of mercenaries, which in its statement of 11 November 2020 referred to the “widespread reports that the Government of Azerbaijan, with Turkey’s assistance, relied on Syrian fighters to shore up and sustain its military operations in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone, including on the front line”.

At the same time, we should regrettably note the inability or unwillingness of OSCE and its relevant executive structures to properly react to these actions by two of its participating States. Moreover, the absence of any OSCE response to violations of commitments on counter-terrorism further emboldened Azerbaijan, which has encouraged and promoted international terrorism by resettling foreign terrorist fighters in the occupied territories of Artsakh after the end of hostilities. These actions make it apparent that Azerbaijan plans to continue using foreign terrorist fighters to support its aggressive policy against Artsakh and the Republic of Armenia.

Mr. Moderator,

We continue to believe that the OSCE is well placed to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, but for this it is necessary, first of all, to review and clarify the OSCE commitments in the field of counter-terrorism. The largest regional security organization must be able to fulfill its mission of promoting security and stability by addressing urgent security threats. Underestimating or ignoring the dangers associated with the use of foreign terrorist fighters in the OSCE area of responsibility may lead to a complete undermining of confidence in the OSCE and its ability to deal with the security challenges faced by its participating States.

Thank you.