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

**STATEMENT**

Arms Transfers and Arms Transfer Control Instruments: OSCE Study presentation

delivered at the

**Forum for Security Co-operation**

10 February 2016

Thank you Mme Chairperson.

We would like to welcome and thank Mr Bromley for sharing with us his interesting insights about results of the study.

Taking this opportunity, let me thank the Dutch chairmanship of the FSC for organising a Security Dialogue on this topic and discussing it through the prism of an independent and wide actor, such as the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute thus encouraging more rigorous implementation of arms transfer control rules.

We firmly believe, that Arms Transfer Control measures, including reporting instruments, both national and international, are complementary tools to improve the regulation of arms transfer. Thorough implementation of international commitments, coordination of arms control practices with other states at regional and sub- regional levels enhance indivisible and comprehensive security.

In this vein, national arms transfer control efforts are the first line of defense to prevent uncontrolled spread of conventional arms by internalizing all global rules and norms into domestic law. Moreover, human rights, reform of the security sector and enhancement of rule of law and good governance has a role to play to ensure secure national environment for better control of arms transfers.

Mme Chairperson,

Armenia strongly supports International control standards of the Conventional Arms Transfer embedded in the frameworks of the UN and OSCE. To this end, we regularly share the Exchange of Information on Conventional Arms Transfer, as well as the Information

exchange on Small Arms exports and imports, which duly reflect the concise picture of arms transfer to and from the Republic of Armenia. We are convinced in a value of addressing arms transfer control topic at the regional and sub- regional levels with participation of all relevant stakeholders based on status neutral approach. The latter is particularly relevant for the region of South Caucasus in order to dispel groundless and fabricated accusations on non-compliance issues. In this vein, the interlocking and mutually reinforcing feature of OSCE CSBMs has a role to play.

Coming to the OSCE region, it is noteworthy that according to the SIPRI Arms Transfer Database on key trends and issues in arms transfers for 2010-2014 period, an OSCE participating state, which advocates compliance and promotes commitments is rated as the second largest importer of major weapons in the OSCE region. And this is against the background that the same participating state is behaving non-transparent and irresponsive by not providing its annual information exchange on CAT and SALW exports and imports from 2013. It should be stressed, that disregard to our commitments under any pretext is unacceptable and further erodes military stability and predictability. Therefore, we encourage all weather implementation of our commitments and call on all participating states to refrain from transfers of Conventional Arms to those states, where the transfers are aimed to boost the relentless and massive military buildup of one of the pS by further destabilizing the security situation and endangering regional peace. Moreover, it should be emphasized also that the same Participating State is using those weapons to violate and suppress the human rights and fundamental freedoms, including equal rights and self- determination of people, while aggravating existing conflict.

Before concluding, let me add that we took a due note of the findings and recommendations identified in the study. We will carefully examine them in order to possibly reflect them in our work.

At the end, let me wish Mr Bromley every success in his future efforts.

Thank you.