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

**Statement**  
**in response to Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov,**  
**OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities**  
**as delivered by Ambassador Armen Papikyan**  
**at the 1318<sup>th</sup> meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**

*03 June 2021*

Madame Chairperson,

We warmly welcome High Commissioner Kairat Abdrakhmanov in his first appearance at the Permanent Council and thank him for his detailed address. Despite the restrictions entailed by the COVID-19, we note with appreciation the intensive pace of consultations with the multilateral partners, as well as the established effective cooperation and channels of communication with the participating states. My delegation is looking forward to our fruitful cooperation.

Protection and promotion of national minorities is high on the agenda of the Armenian Government. In accordance with the Constitution of Armenia, four national minorities of Armenia, namely Yezidis, Russians, Assyrians and Kurds are represented in the National Assembly of Armenia and in compliance with the legal safeguards, they will be represented also after the upcoming snap elections scheduled on 20 June. National minorities are also represented in the local governance - head of local authorities in a number of communities are minority representatives.

Dear High Commissioner,

We attach particular importance to the role of education as an essential bridge builder in relations between minority and majority. National minorities should benefit from primary education provided in their mother tongue. The Government of Armenia is further improving the legal safeguards for the protection of the rights of national minorities. We also closely follow to the situation of protection and promotion of the rights of Armenian minorities in the OSCE participating states.

We stress the importance of Bolzano/Bozen recommendations on National Minorities in Inter-State Relations as a useful framework for addressing the rights of national minorities under certain circumstances.

We stress the importance of your mandate to provide early warning and early action to prevent ethnic tensions from developing into conflict. In this regard, we emphasize the vital need to pay particular attention to the extreme manifestations of hatred and state perpetrated propaganda based based on ethnic or national origin especially when such hatred is promoted by the leader of the OSCE participating state.

In closing, Ambassador Abdrakhmanov, let me assure you that you can count on Armenia`s support in fulfilling your important mission.

Thank you.