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

**SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING**  
**Policies and Strategies to Further Promote Tolerance and Non-Discrimination**  
**Session I: Challenges to realizing Tolerance and Non-Discrimination: Root causes**  
**and Consequences**

**Statement of the Delegation of Armenia**

April 14, 2016

Mr. Moderator,

We welcome distinguished introducers and thank them for their insightful remarks.

First I would like to thank the German Chairmanship for selecting this very topic which relevance is more than evident today when intolerance and discrimination threatens the security and stability in the OSCE area.

There is no any country which is immune of manifestation of intolerance and discrimination. However this does not mean that the situation is similar in all participating state. In our view the urgent attention should be paid to very concrete situation where intolerance and discrimination is part of state policy.

I will refer to such a case since it threatens the regional security in the OSCE area. It is well known that Azerbaijani leadership officially promotes anti-Armenian hatred in its society. Dehumanization of the Armenians and glorification of crimes and against Armenians their perpetrators have become one of the cornerstones of internal policy of the ruling elite. The reports of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance of the Council of Europe recognize Armenians as vulnerable group in Azerbaijan. The ODIHR Baseline Study on cross-border movement of 2014 identifies Azerbaijan as the only OSCE participating State, which denies entrance on the ground of ethnic origin. Persons of Armenian origin, regardless their citizenship are not allowed to enter Azerbaijan. In the conditions of severe restrictions of freedom of expression and freedom of media, the anti-Armenian propaganda by the Government has led to radicalization of youth.

Just a few days ago Azerbaijani armed forces, in the borderline Talish village as well as in other places of Nagorno–Karabakh, perpetrated ISIL style executions by mutilating bodies, parading with chopped heads, choosing their targets among vulnerable groups such as elderly persons, women and member of Yazidi religious minority. The perpetration of these atrocities has not been condemned but along with other similar crimes hailed by Azerbaijani highest authorities as military victory.

All human rights are indivisible and interdependent. It will be erroneous to expect that one particular human right will be upheld in the framework of massive violation of fundamental freedoms including freedom of expression and freedom of assembly in Azerbaijan.

These example shows that country with very low level of human rights standards can become a threat to regional security since the ruling elite derives its legitimacy not from protection but violation of human rights.

Thank You.