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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT

**in response to Ambassador Tuula Yrjölä,
Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre
as delivered by Ambassador Armen Papikyan
at the 1396th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**

27 October 2022

Mr Chairman,

The Delegation of Armenia welcomes the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), Ambassador Tuula Yrjölä back to the Permanent Council and thanks her for the comprehensive report.

Armenia has been consistently stressing the great importance it attaches to the early warning and early action tasks of the CPC. Moreover, we again and again advocated and called for the timely and effective application of these indispensable mechanisms of the OSCE. In times of rising tensions and emerging and rapidly evolving crisis situations the realisation of the conflict prevention mandate of this Organisation rests primarily on the timely and proper actions by the CPC and the use of its early warning and prevention toolkit.

Madam Director,

Against the backdrop of a major security crisis and aggravation of conflicts in the OSCE region, the CPC with its mandated activities and, above all, with its early warning and early action competences, is of particular importance and relevance. The possession of objective and verified information is a *sine qua non* for any conflict prevention activity, while it is the duty of all participating States to create a conducive environment for obtaining and evaluating such information.

This is especially true in those cases when the underlying principles of this Organisation and the Helsinki Final Act, such as the non-use of force and respect for

sovereignty and territorial integrity of a participating state have been flagrantly violated, allowing the CPC to swiftly respond and take effective measures.

Such measures may also, upon the request of a participating state and in line with the Ministerial Council Decision 3/11 on Conflict Cycle, include *in situ* missions, especially when there is no OSCE field presence. The continued commitment of the CPC to improving its effectiveness and further prioritising its core business of crisis management and rapid response capabilities is of great importance.

That being said, let me express the hope that the Needs Assessment Mission to Armenia will produce an operational and comprehensive report that will prompt all relevant OSCE structures, including the CPC, to address the consequences of Azerbaijan's unprovoked and unjustified aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Armenia, including the imperative of the withdrawal of Azerbaijani troops from the sovereign territory of Armenia.

Mr Chairman,

We encourage the CPC to continue providing the necessary support and assistance to the Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. We also call on the CPC to refrain from appeasing the aggressor state by way of engaging in activities aimed at legitimising the results of its illegal use of force and war of aggression, accompanied by numerous war crimes.

In closing, I would like to once again thank you, distinguished Ambassador Tuula Yrjölä, for your presentation and wish you every success in your future endeavours.

I thank you.