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

Statement

**on the occasion of assumption by Poland of the FSC Chairmanship
delivered at the 815th Plenary Meeting of the**

Forum for Security Co-operation

13 April, 2016

Mr. Chairman.

Armenian delegation congratulates and welcomes Poland, the new chair of the Forum for Security Co-operation. We would like to extend our welcome to H.E Marek Ziolkowski, Under- Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland and thank him for his thorough address.

We would also like to thank and congratulate the Netherlands for excellent chairmanship of the Forum and welcome Portugal as a new member of the FSC Troika.

Mr Chairman,

Throughout the discussions here in the FSC there is a sense of urgency when it comes to addressing current security challenges in the OSCE. The use of force constitutes the main challenge in this regard. The instances of resorting to force should not become business as usual. The threat to use of force and building capacities to that end it had already become habitual in the OSCE. In the course of the recent years, Armenia has been constantly calling for increased attention from the OSCE pS to grave violations of Arms Control and Vienna Document commitments and war rhetoric. There is a failure to prevent the use of force also because those threats and actions have not been addressed. Nowadays when the use of force took place it is important to unequivocally condemn it. In this regard we appreciate strong condemnation of use of force on the line of contact between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan. However, if we are consistent in condemnation we should first of all condemn the party who

resorted to large scale ceasefire violation. Generic and non specified condemnation has never been sufficient particularly in the case of security organization since non use of force constitutes the bulk of our commitments. The argument that the use of force cannot be verified is not valid for two reasons. In the case of large scale military offensive the party who resorted to force is more than obvious. Second, the OSCE has been more than in position to verify and investigate the cease fire violations and the party who has been opposing it bears direct responsibility of military escalations. Ensuring the permanent presence of the organization through its field missions in conflict area has been put forward as effective response of the OSCE to the instants of use of force. The party who creates obstacles to the OSCE permanent presence in the conflict area should be again singled out and identified.

Selective reference to the principles of Helsinki Final Act and their relativisation due to geopolitical interests have not been conducive towards protection of indivisible security.

The attempts to use force against the right of self determination of peoples should be unequivocally condemned. The kinship security approaches represent another major challenge to the indivisibility of security and threaten the very foundations of our organization.

Mr Chairman,

We hope that the platform of the Forum for Security Cooperation as well as the other distinguished bodies of our organization will be better used to hold accountable Azerbaijan, who erodes military stability and security in the South Caucasus and European region.

Today, the re- commitment of the OSCE pSto the letter and spirit of political-military instruments is a compelling requisite for security.

We are looking forward to contribute discussions under Security Dialogues, Annual Security Review Conference as well as Annual discussion on the implementation of the Code of Conduct in a due course.

In conclusion, let me wish the Polish chairmanship every success for its tenure and pledge Armenia's support.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.