



Statement

ENGLISH only

**On the 2019 Programme Outline
as delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian, Permanent Representative of
Armenia at the 1186th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
May 17, 2018**

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to welcome and thank Secretary General Thomas Greminger for his presentation of the 2019 Programme Outline.

Throughout upcoming discussions of the Program Outline within Preparatory Committee and the ASMF our delegation will present its views to concrete mandates and fund managers. For the time being let me underline few issues.

We took note of the concerns of the Secretary General expressed both in the foreword of the Program Outline and paper entitled OSCE at a fiscal crossroads for the 2019 Unified Budget: the price of peace and security in Europe

We agree that continued application of zero–nominal growth may have eventually cumulative impact on the organizational capacity of the organization. Therefore, cooperation and ownership of all participating states are essential in overcoming negative budget trends. The role of the Secretary General and the Secretariat cannot be underestimated in this regard since these important executive structures can build trust among the participating states and thus move the organization forward in many critical issues. As we understand, the reform agenda of the Secretary General entitled “fit for purpose” also aims to this end.

In the meantime, the recent changes in document distribution on which my delegation made remarks during two recent meetings of the Permanent Council indicates that so far distribution of documents has become fat but not fit. Also, we took note that despite assurances pronounced during the last meeting of the Permanent Council the application of disclaimer has been made selective and thus discriminative. As we have cautioned here, the Conference Services have to make not technical but political judgments in applying or not applying disclaimer. This is not acceptable. We did not intend to attach that importance to this issue under this agenda item. However, since it impacts cooperation with executive structures we deem it necessary to stress one more time that the undertaken changes in documents distribution need to be reconsidered. Non-cooperative stance and arbitrary decisions will not move us towards consent throughout the budget cycle.

Mr. Chairman,

Armenia reiterates its principal position of full support to the OSCE mandates related to the NK conflict resolution, particularly OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the PRCiO. Armenia will continue to advocate expansion of human, financial and technological capacities of the PRCiO with the view of enabling proper implementation of its mandate and agreements reached at Summits in Vienna, St. Petersburg and Geneva.

We encourage the HLPG to continue its activities strictly in line with its mandate on elaborating options of military peacekeeping operation. The current composition of the HLPG remains a source of serious concern. Therefore, the HLPG should be staffed in such a way to enjoy the trust of all parties to the conflict and be able to proceed in neutral and impartial manner in the very sensitive environment of the conflict. Hence, certain rectification is needed.

Thank you.