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

Statement

In Response to the Address of Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations

delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 1023rd Special Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

November 04, 2014

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to extend our warm welcome to the distinguished UN Secretary General, H.E. Ban Ki-moon and thank him for the comprehensive address which is the reflection of high level of cooperation between our organizations.

We agree that in different parts of the world we are facing new security threats and challenges. The emergence of well-funded and powerful terrorist organizations who strongly benefit from the flow of foreign fighters and support of international network have posed existential threats at unknown gravity to states, many individuals and groups.

On many occasions and fora including in the OSCE Permanent Council Armenia brought up the imperative of international cooperation against international terrorist organizations such as ISIL and ANF. In our view, the efforts of international community should be developed within our commitments and obligations of preventing mass atrocities. Armenia as a country who pursues the agenda of genocide prevention in the international security and cooperation strongly supports UN SC resolution on foreign terrorist fighters and is ready to make its contribution towards its realization.

We particularly value the personal engagement of the Secretary General in forging international cooperation against this new scourge. We also highly appreciate statements of Secretary General on the urgent need of protection of religious and ethnic groups in Syria and Iraq including clear condemnation of violence perpetrated by Al-Qaida affiliated groups against the Armenian population of Kessab in Syria.

Mr. Chairman,

Human rights violations particularly hate crimes combined with constant threats to use force and instances of resorting to force contribute towards sustaining stalemates in resolving conflicts elsewhere in the world including OSCE region.

The calls of international community to ease tensions through building confidence and trust among all parties to the conflict are essential in preventing hostilities. We particularly appreciate the efforts of the Secretary General to ease the tensions on the line of contact between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan and border between Armenia and Azerbaijan earlier this summer and his call on all parties to respect the ceasefire agreement and refrain from violence. In this context we would like to recall also his call to withdraw the snipers from the Line of Contact, which might have prevented loss of many lives of military personnel and civilians, if all the parties to the conflict followed that call.

We fully share the view of the UN Secretary General that all parties should respect the ceasefire agreement, refrain from further violence and commit themselves to immediate de-escalation and continuing dialogue aimed at finding peaceful political solution guided by the international mediators OSCE MG Co-Chairs, who are permanent members of the UN SC.

Armenia agrees with the international mediators that Nagorno-Karabakh conflict should be resolved based on the fundamental principles of the international law such as non-use of force, territorial integrity and equal rights and self-determination of peoples.

Mr. Chairman,

We acknowledge the unique role of the UN in peacekeeping. In recent years, Armenia has consistently consolidated its peacekeeping capabilities and contributed towards peace building missions in Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan. Soon, Armenian peacekeepers will be dispatched to the south of Lebanon within the framework of the UNIFIL mission under the auspices of the United Nations. We look forward to enhancing cooperation with the UN as security provider.

Mr. Chairman,

Peace, security and human rights are indispensable in achieving development and modernization. We believe that there is a great complementarity between United Nations and the OSCE to ensure effective framework of development. We are looking forward to continued leadership of the Secretary General in pursuing the new "Post-2015" development agenda which will continue addressing challenges of global nature within renewed international cooperation.

In conclusion, we would like once again to extend our sincere gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon and wish him all success in his future activities.

Thank you.