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

Statement
On the Programme Outline
delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 1100th Meeting of the OSCE
Permanent Council
May 12, 2016

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to thank the distinguished Secretary General for presentation of the Programme Outline for the year 2017.

We will focus on the most important funds and pressing issues of the Programme Outline.

But let me begin with the Horizontal issues. The long standing issue of illegal compensation of the local staff income tax, remain unsolved, despite clear-cut commitments under OSCE Staff Regulations and Rules. Inability of the Secretariat to ensure compliance of certain participating States to OSCE commitments when it comes to contribution of all participating States to the OSCE, affects the cooperative spirit of the budget cycle.

In our view programmatic activities of the OSCE institutions particularly the ODIHR and RFOM should encompass entire OSCE region without any areas of exclusion. The OSCE commitments should be implemented throughout the OSCE and these institutions are entitled to provide assistance to the relevant authorities and civil society without any politicization.

We will refer to the activities of the ODIHR in more detail during upcoming ACMF discussions. However, at this stage we would like to underline that the programmatic activities related to the Tolerance and Non Discrimination do not reflect commitments of participating states in this area. The methodology used by ODIHR in gathering and reporting hate crimes is not conducive for identifying those hate crimes which may represent threat to the security in the OSCE area. Therefore, the Delegation of Armenia proposes the ODIHR to reconsider its TND programme, which currently lack added value.

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.

We took note that the actual Programme Outline of the PRCiO is missing from the PO. We thank the Secretariat for reminding the participating States on the mandate of the PRCiO, but we need to see what the planned activities of the Office are for the next year. Last year the long standing definition on the nature of the PRCiO activities as OSCE permanent presence in the conflict zone got disappeared due to so-called technical amendment and this year there is simply no program outline. Only after issuing the

PRCiO Programme Outline, the Delegation of Armenia will be in position to present its comments on it and accordingly engage in discussions on the funds necessary to implement the programme. For the time being I will limit myself only to one comment. The proposal to increase the budget of the PRCiO by 0,1% fails short to address the evolving security challenges and needs in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone and runs contrary to the position of supporting the extension of the PRCiO capacities .

We reiterate our support to the OSCE Office in Yerevan and intention of the Government of Armenia to continue positive and constructive cooperation with the Office in implementation of the OSCE commitments in all three dimensions.

At the end we would like to extend our gratitude to the German Chair of the ACMF, Mr. Erik Tintrupp for efficient implementation of his duties and offer our support to the upcoming Austrian Chair of the ACMF.

Thank You.

Reply to Azerbaijan

Mr. Chairman,

We are aware that Azerbaijan attempts to introduce its conflict perception in any area of OSCE activities, be it OSCE institutions' work, ongoing migration and refugee crisis, cooperation with the OSCE partner countries. The OSCE Office in Yerevan is not an exception in this regard.

We would like to remind the Delegation of Azerbaijan once again that the Office in Yerevan is not mandated to deal with the NK conflict. If the level of cooperation of Armenia with the OSCE is a source of frustration for Azerbaijan, we can encourage the Azerbaijani side to follow the good practice of my country and consider reopening of the OSCE field presence in Azerbaijan.

Thank You.