



ԵԱՀԿ-ՌԻՄ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՄՇՏԱԿԱՆ ՆԵՐԿԱՅԱՑՈՒՑՉՈՒՄ  
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

## STATEMENT

**as delivered by the Delegation of the Republic of Armenia at the 2021 Annual Security Review Conference  
Opening Session**

**31 August 2021**

Madame Chairperson,

At the outset, I should like to thank our keynote speakers, Chairperson-in-Office, H.E. Foreign Minister Ann Linde and Secretary General Helga Maria Schmid for their remarks and for setting the stage for our two-days discussions. Let me also express our appreciation for choosing the topic of *“Back to basics: our commitments, our security, our OSCE”* as the main theme of this year's conference. In our view, this choice, among other things, would spark an honest discussion about the role and place of the OSCE as the largest regional security organization in an ever deteriorating security environment.

Under the current circumstances, when the erosion of multilateralism is progressing, when animosity and mistrust are still on the rise, when violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and disrespect for OSCE principles have become a daily routine for some participating States, going back to our founding principles is perhaps the only way to safeguard those principles and commitments and protect them against the backdrop of the continued failure of the OSCE to meet the expectations of the peoples of the region.

Madame Chairperson,

Last year's war of aggression in Nagorno-Karabakh and the illegal use of force against the aspirations of the people of Artsakh for self-determination became a major violation of security and stability in the OSCE area of responsibility, which resulted in thousands of people killed, tens of thousands wounded and displaced. As a key OSCE annual security event, the ASRC should address and discuss such serious challenges to the peace and security in our region as a matter of priority, without hesitation and bargaining. As a matter of fact, the primary task and the *raison d'être* of the ASRC is to serve as a

framework for such discussions, which is also reflected in the 2002 Porto Ministerial Council decision.

Despite the efforts of the Swedish Chairpersonship, the credibility of the key annual event of the OSCE's politico-military dimension has been undermined by attempts of a single participating State to limit the scope of the ASRC's agenda according to its narrow political interests in yet another demonstration of its disrespect for our shared commitments and principles. Unfortunately, the absence of an adequate response from the participating States gives the impression of the tacit approval of such actions. It would not be surprising if this would be perceived by the same participating State as a *carte blanche* for similar actions also on other issues.

Dear colleagues,

The threat or use of force, the instrumentalization of international terrorism, large-scale military exercises in clear violation of the provisions of the 2011 Vienna Document, war-mongering rhetoric, territorial claims against Armenia accompanied by military incursions into its sovereign territory, continuous hate speech at the highest political level, and many other persistent violations receive little if any response from the Organization. Whereas, these developments should have prompted the OSCE to react or should at least served as early warning signals for its executive structures.

It is equally dangerous and unacceptable to prioritize one conflict at the expense of others due to political considerations and preferences. Such practices undermine the OSCE as an organization capable of ensuring security through co-operation for the benefit of all participating States and must be stopped immediately.

Madame Chairperson,

In closing, let me emphasize that Armenia remains committed to the principles and commitments of the OSCE. We expect that our discussions on the prospects for a political settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on the basis of the well-known principles of the conflict resolution will help revitalize the activities of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs in line with their mandate. Likewise, we expect that our dialogue on other pertinent issues will contribute to the realization of the OSCE's concept of indivisible security based on our joint commitments and efforts.

I thank you.