



**ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՊԱՏՎԻՐԱԿՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ**  
**DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**  
**ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

**Statement**

**in response to the Address of H.E. Ivica Dačić, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office,  
First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of the Republic of Serbia  
delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 1033rd Meeting of the  
OSCE Permanent Council**

January 15, 2015

Mr. Chairperson,

We warmly welcome H.E. Ivica Dačić, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia to the Permanent Council and thank him for the comprehensive address.

Mr. Minister,

My delegation had the opportunity to present its views on the priorities of the 2015 Serbian Chairmanship during your first appearance at the Permanent Council last year. Therefore we will endeavor to make some emphasis on certain points which were outlined in the framework of your thoughtful address.

First we agree with your prioritizing of important anniversaries which have great significance for European security in all its dimensions. Last year we marked the centennial of the First World War, and this year we approach the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. It was one hundred years ago that a new definition of “crime against humanity” describing preplanned and systematic annihilation of the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire entered into vocabulary of international relations and had been used for other occasions each and every time manifesting our common failure to prevent gross violations of the human rights amounting to mass atrocities. This year the international community will pay its tribute to the victims of the Armenian Genocide with a strong determination to prevent new crimes against humanity. Duty of memory and right to the truth are indispensable for paving the path of reconciliation while condoning, trivializing, denying and even justifying such crimes strenghtens dividing lines which seem to become insurmountable walls in some parts of European continent.

Our Organization is well placed to deal with outstanding issues of European security on the basis of its values, norms and principles, reflected in the Helsinki Final Act, that of non-use of force and threat to use the force, right of peoples to self-determination, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, international cooperation, to name a few. We should make full use of the advantages of the OSCE, namely comprehensive security approach, institutions, agreed negotiation formats, field presences to develop dialogue, build trust and confidence. We are pleased to

note that these priorities of the Armenian side are shared by the Serbian Chairmanship.

We welcome the intention of the Chairmanship to promote resolution of existing conflicts within agreed formats. We share the view of the Chairmanship that steps aimed at improving trust and confidence among parties to the conflict can create better atmosphere to tackle issues of political settlement, which is particularly evident in case of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. On the contrary, resorting to military force, violation of ceasefire regime, international humanitarian law, bellicose warmongering, hate speech and persecution of representatives of civil society, who pursue confidence building and reconciliation projects undermine the negotiation process of peaceful settlement.

From the very beginning Armenia lended its support to the Helsinki + 40 process as an undertaking which could have contributed towards overcoming dividing lines through creating conditions for reconciliation in a transparent and inclusive manner. The developments of last year came to prove that transparency and inclusiveness of the Helsinki +40 process is a key prerequisite for the progress and achieving consensus. We are glad to note that participating states shared this approach in last year's MC declaration. However, the appointment of the members of the high level panel on the eminent persons without prior consultations at least with my delegation once again showed that these principles are not sufficiently upheld. At this stage and venue we are not going to voice out all our concerns, but the fact that one of the appointees publicly claimed that the biggest diplomatic success of his career was scored in the realm of denying rights of the victims of the Armenian Genocide indicates that certain person appeared in the group based on his service not to the OSCE community but rather the policy of denial of one of the participating state. We do not think that the person with such "eminent" partisan views can bring credibility to the panel and will rather pursue narrow political goals of that participating state.

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me to reiterate our support to the Serbian Chairmanship. We strongly endorse the intention of the Serbian Chairmanship to focus on the countering of the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters. In this context Armenia continues to advocate full implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 2170 and 2178 with respect to the foreign terrorist fighters, associated with ISIL, ANF and other cells of Al Qaida. We are also pleased to note that the Serbian Chairmanship will continue to pursue discussions on Security Sector Reform.

We share the Serbian Chairmanship's human dimension priorities such as freedom of expression and freedom of media, protection of journalists, freedom of assembly and association, tolerance and non-discrimination, rights of national minorities.

In conclusion, we would like to thank the outgoing Swiss Chairmanship, Ambassador Thomas Greminger in person and wish all success to You, Mr. Chairperson, Ambassador Vuk Zujic and Your able and competent team.

Thank You.