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PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF
ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT

**in response to the Presentations by the Chairs of the Three Committees:
the Security Committee, the Economic and Environmental Committee,
and the Human Dimension Committee
as delivered by Ambassador Andranik Hovhannisyan
at the 1499th meeting of the Permanent Council**

28 November 2024

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank the chairs of the three Committees Ambassadors Anne-Marie Callan, Florian Raunig and Peter Burian for their presentations and for steering the work of the Committees in these challenging times.

Ambassador Callan, we commend your inclusive and consultative approach in tabling the committee's work plan. This approach has fostered a collaborative environment, which is among key reasons for our delegation to be actively engaged in the deliberations of the Human Dimension Committee and to contribute on a broad range of topics, including freedom of expression, violence against women, tolerance and non-discrimination, combatting torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment to name but a few. We take this opportunity to stress that the agenda of the Committee should be comprehensive, addressing cases related to the protection and promotion of human rights for all in the OSCE area. And since we are contributing to the work of the security organisation this is particularly critical in the context of the human rights of people affected by wars and conflicts. We trust that next year's work plan will reflect this inclusivity, encompassing the pressing human rights issues and concerns of people affected by conflicts, including those who have been forcibly displaced and those who live in the border areas. Such an approach is essential to ensure that the Committee remains responsive to the current challenges faced by the most vulnerable ones.

As for the second dimension, Ambassador Raunig, your experience and leadership of the Economic and Environmental Committee have been instrumental in examining and addressing issues that are vital for the OSCE area. We are pleased that discussions on combating corruption, promoting economic development, trade and transport sector, climate change resilience and environmental protection were high on the agenda. It is well known that when corruption is condoned by a state, its repercussions extend far beyond national borders expanding to international level with the destabilizing consequences. This Committee, therefore, bears a responsibility to examine not only the fulfillment of our collective commitments to combat corruption but also the alarming phenomenon of corrupt practices being exported into international organizations. It should be also recalled that the discussions in this Committee revealed that wars and crises have devastating environmental and economic consequences. These challenges affect not only the immediate conflict zones, but also have broader regional impact. In order to refrain from the domino effect when the non-compliance in one of the OSCE baskets leads to failure in others, a holistic approach is required — prioritizing security, economic development, environmental protection and their consequences on human rights. We hope that the Committee will further explore and address this nexus. As the host country of 17th meeting of Conference of parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity – COP17, Armenia values also focus on biodiversity and food security.

In the first dimension we are pleased that under the stewardship of Ambassador Burian, the Security Committee focused the discussions on topics related to existing and emerging transnational threats in the context of crisis and conflict situations. In this vein we highlight the deliberations on ongoing challenges of cultural property trafficking, protection of cultural and religious heritage during armed conflicts, prevention of attacks and protection of critical infrastructure and safety and protection of journalists in armed conflicts. We encourage to keep this focus while also addressing various challenges related to border security and management by effectively leveraging the OSCE's experience and expertise in this field.

We also appreciate the exchange of views on promotion of Security Sector Governance and Reform, as a crucial component of OSCE's holistic approach to security,

The delegation of Armenia remains committed to actively and constructively participating in discussions in the Security Committee under the incoming chairpersonship. We count on its comprehensive and inclusive approach in elaborating and dealing with the work plan.

In closing, we would like once again to thank the Chairs and their able teams for their efforts and dedication.

Thank you.