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PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF
ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

Statement

**as delivered by the Delegation of Armenia
at the 1079th meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation
Security Dialogue: “Military education and the changing roles of military
academies”**

29 May 2024

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for including this important topic for today’s Security dialogue. Let me also thank our panelists for shaping today’s discussion with interesting presentations.

Military education and the roles of military academies are undergoing significant transformations to adapt to the complexities of new generation warfare and global security dynamics. These changes reflect the need for technologically proficient military forces, with greater emphasis on inclusiveness, in particular, with expanded opportunities for inclusion of women into armed forces. In this context, the military academies also play an important role in the formation of defense forces prepared to address diverse and evolving threats with strict compliance with IHL and International Human Rights Law.

Promotion of full, equal, and meaningful participation of women including in the defence sector has continuously been among the priorities of the Government of Armenia as a key prerequisite for sustainable and lasting peace. Since the 2013-2014 academic year, women have been provided with the opportunity to study at the Vazgen Sargsyan Military University of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia and receive high-quality military education in all fields of specialization, from intelligence to artillery, from military aviation to the management of UAVs. It is also worth mentioning that in June 2023 Armenia’s National Assembly passed a law on women’s voluntary service in the military. The new law provides women aged 18-27 the opportunity to voluntarily sign up for 6 months of service.

Dear colleagues,

The emergence of new technologies significantly influences the changing role of military academies, reshaping their educational paradigms and operational training, and making

them evolve rapidly to keep pace with technological advancements. This includes integration of advanced technologies in training, to allow cadets to experience different scenarios and environments without the associated risks and costs, with the use of sophisticated simulation and VR technologies to provide realistic operational training. To this end, military academies need to increasingly collaborate with civilian universities and tech firms fostering interdisciplinary education and integrating cutting-edge research and development into their curricula.

In this context, I would like to inform you that in cooperation with educational foundations, Tumo Creative Technologies Center boxes were opened at the Military Academy in Armenia, where the cadets receive technological education with specially developed modules of programming, cyber security, 3D modeling and robotics.

Meanwhile, within the framework of the memorandums of cooperation, the cadets of the military academy spend part of their training sessions in various leading universities of Armenia, using their laboratories, educational equipment, as well as organizing lectures and master classes.

Mr. Chair,

Besides bringing about significant benefits, technological advances also introduce new security challenges.

In this regard it is worth recalling that back in 2021, the Armenian FSC chairmanship has included the “Challenges of the New Generation Warfare” into its Chairmanship’s priorities. Indeed, the development of new weapons and technologies, such as artificial intelligence, lethal autonomous and hypersonic weapons, can multiply the existing security threats and create new ones. They can become a new driver for the arms race. Moreover, the use of remote-controlled and high-precision conventional weapons, which cause relatively low numbers of losses and allow to destroy not only the military power, but also the critical civilian infrastructure of the adversary, may encourage states to consider the use of force as an acceptable way to solve disputes and conflicts. At the same time, the high number of losses among the civilian population caused by the use of high-precision weapons point to their deliberate and indiscriminate use, and show that modern weapons, which are designed to avoid unintended non-combatant casualties, do not serve this primary objective.

Regrettably, these illegal methods of warfare have been unapologetically used in our region during the recent years, marked by multiple military offensives, wars of aggression and ethnic cleansing, accompanied by well-documented war crimes, extrajudicial killings, mutilations, tortures, and destruction of cultural heritage and residential areas. Among others, this showed the lack or absence of proper military education.

This illustrates the crucial role of military educational institutions to prepare future military officers to navigate and leverage the complexities of modern warfare and to ensure strict adherence to and compliance with international law, including the international humanitarian law and human right law and upholding the commitments laid out in the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

Thank you.