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

Statement

in response to the Helsinki + 40 Progress Report

**delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 973th Meeting of the OSCE
Permanent Council**

November 21, 2013

Madam Chair,

The Delegation of Armenia commends the Ukrainian Chairmanship for its work and efforts in launching the Helsinki + 40 process. We thank the Ukrainian Chairmanship for initiating thematic discussions, which were conducted in the second half of the year on Strategic Orientation of the OSCE's Economic and Environmental Dimension, Effectiveness and Efficiency of the OSCE, Conventional Arms Control and CSBMs Regimes and Implementation of the OSCE Commitments, belonging to the Human Dimension.

We would like to stress the importance of discussions generated in these fields, which are crucial for the security and stability of the wide OSCE area. The key messages which we delivered during those discussions were as follows:

First, Economic and environmental dimension should become a true platform for cooperation and confidence building. Unilateral coercive measures should be effectively excluded from the toolbox of the participating States particularly among those who are not engaged in direct conflicts. In this regard, participating States should strictly implement Maastricht strategy and avoid sustaining and creating new dividing lines. Confidence building measures are essential tool to turn challenges imposed by conflicts into opportunities of cooperation.

Second, the human dimension remains an essential security dimension of the OSCE, and many security issues emanate from violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Third, conventional arms control obligations and CSBMs should not be implemented randomly or in a selective manner. Establishment of sub-regional arms control regimes would have a positive impact in terms of restraining uncontrolled military build-up and restoring trust.

Fourth, field operations remain a real asset for our Organization. They provide unique opportunity for all participating States to deliver their joint approaches in cooperative manner on the spot. In our view conflict charged and narrow minded

perceptions should not take hostage the work of field presences. The stereotype that the field missions are being hosted only in problematic environment should be overcome as well.

Fifth, the Helsinki + 40 process can make a real change if it contributes to our efforts aimed at strengthening trust and confidence and consequently promoting reconciliation in the OSCE area. These are important prerequisites for realization of the vision of a security community free of dividing lines and closed borders, which will diminish the possibility of resorting to force.

We would like to underline the importance of encouraging contribution of civil society and academic network, including IDEAS and EASI as well as the Security Days to the Helsinki + 40 process.

We welcome the idea of the Ukrainian, Swiss and Serbian Chairmanship to appoint Helsinki + 40 coordinators to deal with specific thematic areas and hope that this practice will facilitate reaching concrete deliverables.

In conclusion, we would like to offer our support and cooperation for the incoming Swiss and Serbian Chairmanships and wish them every success in their efforts to advance the Helsinki+40 process forward.

Thank You.