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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT

**in response to the report by the Co-ordinator of
OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
as delivered by Mr Arman Hovhannisyan,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Armenia
at the 1373rd meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**

11 May 2022

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of Armenia warmly welcomes Ambassador Igli Hasani back to the Permanent Council and thanks him for the comprehensive report on the activities of his office.

Ambassador Hasani,

Your second appearance at the Permanent Council in your capacity as Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities takes place against the backdrop of an extremely difficult security situation and a total lack of trust and confidence among participating States. It is also clear that growing divisions and tensions carry serious risks of further deterioration of the security situation in the OSCE area.

That being said, it is also important to recognize that the challenges and instability we face today are the result of long-standing problems and flaws that have either been overlooked or ignored. As a result, new challenges have been added to the existing bulk of problems that this Organization has accumulated over the years of its existence. And we still believe that, especially in the Economic and Environmental Dimension, the main reason for this was that not all activities of the OSCE were based on solidarity, transparency, equal and non-discriminatory partnership, mutual accountability and full respect for the interests of all participating States. Instant political and other gains prevailed over strategic thinking. When, some two years ago, we were concerned about the crisis of multilateralism, little did we know that soon we would have to face the risk of its complete disappearance.

Against this background, let me once again reiterate my delegation's long-standing position that, as an organization whose mission is to promote security and co-operation in Europe, OSCE's activities in the Economic and Environmental Dimension should be aimed primarily at strengthening the security of participating States through economic and environmental co-operation. I do acknowledge that this may sound odd

and unrealistic under the current circumstances, but such an approach is essential to the functioning of this Organization. The question is how to achieve this.

Mr. Co-ordinator,

I fully agree that conflicts pose a serious threat to the environment, but allow me to emphasize that such a threat comes from all conflicts, regardless of their geography. In this regard, let me recall that my delegation has expressed serious concern about violations of international norms and principles that have had an immediate and direct impact on the environment in our region. No doubt, all conflicts have an impact on the environment, but, unfortunately, not all conflicts generate the same concern and determination.

We welcome your intention to keep the issue of fighting corruption at the center of the OCEEA's activities. We firmly believe that supporting participating States in the fight against corruption is one of the main objectives of the Second Dimension, since corruption poses a direct and serious threat to security and stability in the OSCE area. This is where the OCEEA can make a real impact.

In this context, we view the ExB project on "Strengthening Anti-Corruption Reform in Armenia" as a flagship project that was indeed demand-driven and tailored to the needs of my country, and it is encouraging that the office will continue the implementation of this project. It is also interesting to learn about anti-money laundering projects and how the Office can engage with countries with a notorious track record in this field.

In closing, I would like to wish you, Ambassador Hasani, every success during your tenure and assure you of our readiness to co-operate with you and your Office.

I thank you.