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

Statement

**In Reply to the Director of CPC, Ambassador Marcel Pesko
delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 1115th Meeting of the OSCE
Permanent Council
October 13, 2016**

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to thank the distinguished Ambassador Marcel Pesko, Director of the CPC for his comprehensive report.

Our Delegation was among the most active participants of the round table discussions on conflict cycle. We have presented detailed written contributions on various aspects of conflict cycle, in which we have elaborated on possible ways to strengthen the toolbox of the Organization.

At this juncture I will touch upon the most important points in our position on strengthening conflict cycle toolbox.

First, our efforts should focus on strengthening capacities of OSCE conflict related field operations. Professional staff and modern technologies are an important precondition for efficient and consistent monitoring of situation in the conflict zone, which is crucial for early warning of possible restoration of hostilities.

Second, basic provisions of the Ministerial Decision 3/11 remain unutilized, in particular when it comes to creation of confidence building measures in all three dimensions.

Third, confidence building measures should be implemented through inclusive and strong ownership of all parties including de facto authorities present on the ground.

Fourth, commitment to negotiation process within agreed mediation formats of the OSCE should be reconfirmed.

As for conflict prevention part of the Report, we would like to reiterate our long standing position that artificial balancing between sides weakens the effect of early warning signals since it may give assurance to the side who is prepared to resort to the force that in any case its responsibility will be shared with the other parties to the conflict.

As for conflict resolution activities, we appreciate the work of Secretariat in elaborating proposal on expansion of the PRCiO Office and creation of investigative mechanism in line with the agreements reached in Vienna and St. Petersburg. Regrettably, blocking of these proposals impedes the political process, as one of the parties to the conflict is not ready to comply with its commitments on non-use of force.

Finally, we observe certain tendency of delaying assistance mechanisms to participating States in implementation of projects in the first dimension. The CPC assistance projects are aimed to serve the interests and priorities of the OSCE participating States for the increased transparency and predictability. The unnecessary delays of the projects implementation is to the detriment of common and indivisible security. We would like to encourage the CPC to clearly and in good faith identify reasons for such delays with the view to proceed smoothly with implementation.

Thank You.