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PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF
ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT
On the occasion of the International Human Rights Day
as delivered by Ambassador Andranik Hovhannisyan
at the 1502nd Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

12 December 2024

We would like to thank the Delegation of Hungary on behalf of the European Union for raising the current issue on International Human rights Day.

On this Day, we are reminded of the timeless words of Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” This simple yet profound declaration speaks to the very heart of what it means to be human: the inherent worth and equal dignity of every individual, irrespective of race, ethnicity, religion, or circumstance.

Today, we stand not only in solidarity with those who continue to fight for their rights, but also in acknowledgment of the shared responsibility each of us bears in creating a world where equality is not the exception, but the rule. It is incumbent upon us all governments, International and Regional Organizations, and individuals alike to challenge the structures that perpetuate inequality and to work relentlessly towards a future where dignity and rights are universally upheld.

On the International Human Rights Day, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia in its commentary stated and I quote “we join the calls for solidarity in defending fundamental rights. Armenia remains steadfast in its dedication to the prevention agenda and promoting equality worldwide, as human rights are not just ideals - they are a shared responsibility. We continue working towards enhancing the partnerships based on this vision”

Armenia stands resolute in its unwavering commitment to protecting and advancing the dignity and human rights of all individuals both at national and international levels.

Madam Chair,

A day before the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nation’s General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of

Genocide, on 9th December 1948, as its first human rights convention. It designates genocide, whether committed in times of peace or in times of war, as a crime under international law.

We marked the 75th anniversaries of these two landmark documents together last year. They formed the foundations of the human rights pillars, which are aimed to ensure that never again humanity can degrade to an extent to replicate the horrors of the past. This promise has not been fulfilled. As we speak now, Armenia hosts the Fifth Global Forum on Genocide Prevention as yet another token of my country's contribution to countering this heinous scourge.

Madam Chair,

The Helsinki Final Act and the subsequent OSCE commitments were developed to strengthen our commitment to human rights, to the establishment of a safe and secure environment in our area. These efforts should continue.

On this day, let us renew our commitment that every human being, regardless of their identity, race, gender, religion or belief should be truly free and absolutely equal in dignity and rights.

Thank you.