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

Statement of the Delegation of Armenia  
Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting  
Rule of Law in promotion and protection of human rights  
July 11-12, 2013

Mr. Chairperson

We would like to thank the Ukrainian Chairmanship for this opportunity to discuss human rights issues from the perspective of rule of law.

We have carefully listened different interventions made by representatives of participating states and NGOs and we would like to offer our views here in a concise manner.

Rule of law and human rights go hand in hand in any given society and the OSCE participating states are not exception in this regard. The OSCE with its cross-dimensional approach is ideally placed to address these linkages through cooperation.

Armenia implements various projects with the OSCE which are aimed to strengthen both human rights and rule of law. The introduction of community police, justice reform and regulatory framework reform more known under guillotine name are the main projects in this regard.

These projects are not merely establishing legislative framework but build new capacities and expertise which can make a real change in developing culture of rule of law and human rights.

Promoting civil society is another important dimension of strengthening rule of law and human rights. Armenia did not introduce any restrictive framework for the activities of civil society. We are glad to see active participation of the representatives of the Armenian civil society in this event. Though we did not share certain points put forward here but we understand that NGOs capture different voices of society and all voices need to be heard.

There was also a reference to the impact of conflict on the human rights and rule of law. First, it should be emphasized that many conflicts in the OSCE region emanated from the systematic violations of human rights aggravated by precarious situation with rule of law.

The conflicts should not be used as excuse for maintaining poor record of human rights and rule of law. It is important to stress that those conflicts can be resolved on the basis of human rights including the right of self-determination which are firmly

embedded in both UN Covenants. Systematic restrictions imposed on the population living in the conflict zone do not simple violate human rights norms but contradict the main principles of legality and rule of law.

Thank you