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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

28th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

“Promoting security, stability and economic growth in the OSCE area by preventing and combating corruption through innovation, increased transparency and digitalization”

Vienna, 15-16 June 2020

SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING Opening Statement

Delegation of Armenia

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the Albanian Chairmanship, the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and his team for their efforts in organizing the Second Preparatory Meeting of the 28th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum with an enhanced emphasis on the fight against corruption. I also thank Ambassador Igli Hasani and Secretary General Thomas Greminger for their opening remarks as well as Director General Li Yong and Special Representative Paola Severino for their keynote speeches.

Corruption challenges the very basics of our societies, erodes our values, creates conducive environment for the disrespect of human rights and the rule of law. The pandemic has yet again reaffirmed the vital need for a genuine fight against corruption and ensuring the efficient spending of public funds.

The fight against corruption is an absolute priority for the Armenian Government, which is demonstrating the necessary political will to effectively tackle this issue. And there is a strong consensus in the Armenian society on this issue.

There is no doubt that corruption in its various manifestations is a challenge not only at the national, but also at the international level. It is particularly alarming when the international community is faced with state-sponsored corruption policy that is exported internationally both through multilateral and bilateral tracks. This disturbing phenomenon, which we continue to observe in our region, requires a swift and decisive response and increased collective resilience against corruption at the international

level.

A vibrant, democratic and resilient society with strong human rights institutions and civilian oversight, a political system with checks and balances is a shortcut to an effective fight against corruption.

Dear colleagues,

We very much value our co-operation with the OSCE as one of our key partners in supporting anti-corruption reform in Armenia. In particular, I would like to sincerely thank Ms./Prof. Paola Severino as well as the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and his team for their support and active engagement in the anti-corruption reform in my country. Prof. Paola Severino has already mentioned explicitly that as a result of this co-operation, the Government of Armenia adopted the Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2019-2022 and its Action Plan. While the Commission on the Prevention of Corruption, established in November 2019, continues to gain recognition and assumes the implementation of the assigned responsibilities, currently the works on establishing the Anti-Corruption Committee, a law enforcement institution that will combat corruption crimes, are progressing.

Mr. Chairman,

We are also pleased to note that the Deputy Minister of Environment of Armenia will have the opportunity to present our national experience of anti-corruption efforts in the area of management of natural resources.

We look forward to interesting deliberations and stand ready to contribute to this end.

Thank you.