

STATEMENT

**delivered by Dr. Gagik Hovhannisyan, Director of Arms Control and International Security
Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia at the 2017 Annual Security
Review Conference**

**Special Session: Special meeting of the Structured Dialogue
28 June, 2017**

Mr Chairperson,

At the outset, we wish to thank the Austrian Chairmanship for organizing this special session on the Structured Dialogue.

We would like to extend our appreciation to the German Ambassador Eberhard Pohl, the Chair of the Informal Working Group on the Structured Dialogue, for his professionalism and dedication in leading the work of the IWG.

We wish to thank also the keynote speaker for his contribution.

Mr Chairperson,

Dialogue among OSCE participating states is the essential feature of our cooperative security. Recent years there have been number of efforts to create informal platform for dialogue in the OSCE. Some of them were more successful, others were not. It is important to assess the reasons of previous successes or their absence in conducting structured dialogue. From our part, we can highlight three essential features, which needs to be preserved in order to have tangible outcomes from our deliberations.

First, equal and inclusive manner of dialogue need to be maintained.

Second, dialogue should be goal and focus oriented and the emphasis on revitalizing Arms Control and Confidence and Security building is important here.

In this context, it should be stressed that all previous attempts to discuss protracted conflicts in the OSCE area outside their agreed formats, which are delicately tailored to address each particular conflict, were and will not be effective. Therefore, our focus should be concentrated to the mandate of revitalization of Arms control and CSBMs, with a goal to achieve increased transparency, build trust and confidence between OSCE pS.

Third, informal dialogue should aim at implementing OSCE principles and commitments rather than revising them in line with conflict perceptions.

It is exactly with this approach, that we are engaged in the discussions of the Structured Dialogue with the expertise from the capital level. We recognize the inter-relation between the chosen topics of thematic sessions and as from the very beginning, we would like to stress the importance of strict consistency of the process with the mandate of the Hamburg Ministerial Declaration.

Mr Chaiperson,

The thematic session on the threat perceptions revealed all existing divergences between OSCE pS. However, being guided by the identified objective of the structured dialogue, we firmly believe that it is timely to narrow down the focus of discussions with cluster three - on political- military issues. The dialogue exactly in this direction holds a potential to converge our divergences and minimize the security risks in the shared interest of all OSCE pS.

Concerning the proposals of the Delegation of France, we think they contain relevant and interesting points that could be further explored.

We are looking forward to continue our constructive engagement in the deliberations of the Structured Dialogue.

Thank you.