

## **Warsaw Human Dimension Conference**

**30 September**  
**Opening session**

### **Opening Remarks**

**Delivered by Mr. Hakob Sargsyan, Head of the OSCE and Conventional Arms Control Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia**

Thank you, Madame Chair,

I would like to thank the Maltese Chairmanship for organizing the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference, as well as our host, Poland, for their traditional hospitality.

Armenia reaffirms its commitment to the fundamental principles and documents that underpin the human dimension, and the importance of addressing humanitarian issues, including the promotion of human rights, the rule of law, democratic governance, as well as the application of International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law, especially in the context of armed conflicts. The protection and promotion of human rights are not only fundamental obligations but also vital for sustainable peace and development in our region.

**In this regard, we must acknowledge the critical role of democratic institutions.** Strengthening democracy at national, regional, and local levels is imperative for ensuring that the voices of all citizens are heard and respected. Democratic elections, free from restrictions, manipulations and suppressions, are essential to forming accountable and transparent governments and building trust in our political systems. Furthermore, safeguarding fundamental freedoms, such as the freedom of opinion and expression, and ensuring the safety of journalists and human rights defenders, remain a priority. All of the above mentioned are not only mere principles but rather prerequisites for peace and security. Nowadays, we know all too well that democracies do not start wars.

Having said that, and with due respect to genuine civil society organizations and their representatives present here, it is extremely deplorable to note that the main annual event of human dimension of the OSCE has been turned into a parade of GONGOs. This year's number is alarmingly unprecedented. For years, some states instead of improving their human rights record, have elevated the creation of GONGOs to a level of industrial production. For the delegation of Armenia, not only

**are they limiting the space of genuine civil society and preventing real debates, but some of them, most notably the so-called “Western Azerbaijan” has been comfortably provided with a reputable floor to promote its malicious state narratives of aggressive expansionism and territorial claims towards my country.**

**The inclusion of such entities is in stark contradiction to the values, aims and principles of this organization and is seriously devaluing the essence of our discussions. This is something we should seriously ponder about if we really wish to preserve the integrity and meaning of this event.**

**In conclusion, it is imperative that we prioritize authentic voices that reflect the true diversity and challenges faced by communities across our region. Only then can we genuinely uphold the values of the human dimension and work towards meaningful solutions.**

**I Thank you.**