

## Welcoming Message

**from Mr Vigen Sargsyan, the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Armenia**  
**on the occasion of the Human Rights Day (10 December).**

Dear guests and participants,

On 10<sup>th</sup> December 69 years ago the UN General Assembly proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This was a revolutionary event in the history of mankind which, one may say, served as an impetus for changing the global paradigm. The Declaration is highly prioritised on agendas worldwide even nowadays. It is fair that the marking of this occasion in a specific manner and taking stock of the concrete work done has become a priority and a good tradition for us.

In this sense, it is noteworthy that in frames of this discussion dedicated to the Human Rights Day we summarise the work done during the first year of the Project “Strengthening the Application of the European Human Rights Standards in the Armed Forces in Armenia” that is considered to be unprecedented in its character. One of the main goals of the “nation-army” concept adopted by us is strengthening the bonds between the army and the society and enhancing the civilian and democratic control over the armed forces, which has a direct impact on improvement of the protection of human rights in the army. Thus, we can state that we are approaching the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration signature with a strong foundation of the work already done and a clear vision.

Congratulating on the occasion of the International Human Rights Day, I wish all of us a continuous and constructive co-operation.