

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude for such an exceptional opportunity to exchange views and experience on very important topics that are being discussed today.

Indeed, the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights at national level has fundamental importance and secures the effectiveness of the Convention system within its territory without any exception.

I am glad to underline that the Government of Armenia has always been committed to the implementation of the Convention standards at the national level. To this end execution of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights plays a significant role. The process of the execution of the judgments is multi-directional and includes not only cooperation at the national level among different agencies but also relations at bilateral level with international partners such as Council of Europe. The Armenian Government is actively involved in Bilateral consultations with the Department for the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights on various issues aimed at enforcement of the ECtHR judgments.

The Office of the Representative of Armenia on International Legal Matters, formerly known as the Government Agent's Office before the ECtHR, is actively involved in the bilateral cooperation between the Government and the Council of Europe by coordinating the process of the execution of the Court's judgments. The Office is integral part within the Prime Minister's Administration which deals not only with cases before the ECHR but also other international courts and tribunals, in this way securing the synergy of the State's obligations under different treaties. The Agent's Office has been established in 2019 by a separate law adopted by the Parliament. As to the Office's function in relation to the ECHR it both covers the communication phase with the Court and coordinates the execution process. Moreover, there is a special research department within the office which drafts and publishes guidelines in Armenian language with regard to different Articles of the Convention. In this way the Convention standards are made available to all national authorities who directly implement and apply the Convention requirements.

I would like to emphasize the role of Council of Europe in fostering human rights at the national level. By the support of the Council of Europe the Office of the representative recently launched a case management system which allows us to identify the main Conventional issues that our Government is facing. The relevant filters of the system find out not only the violations that have been established by the Court in its judgments but also those repetitive issues which are still being communicated to the Government. In this way it becomes easier to identify which issues we have to focus on and in which way we have to work with the relevant agencies which are in charge of direct execution of the Court's judgments.

Among the Council of Europe's projects on execution of the ECHR judgments I'd highlight two projects. The first one "Support for the execution of judgments in respect of Article 6 of the Convention" was launched in 2021 and lasted two years. This project included components with regard to the improvement of state efforts under Article 6 of the Convention and it mostly focused on the right to access to Court, the excessive length of proceedings and the implementation of protocol 16 to the Convention. Although Armenia has ratified this protocol recently but it already has a good practice of making use of the protocol's mechanisms. The ECHR has already delivered two advisory opinions on the request of highest courts of Armenia – the Constitutional Court and the Court of Cassation.

One of the most important achievements in the execution process which has been outlined within this project is the formation of an Inter-Agency Committee for the execution of the ECtHR judgments. The Committee was established by the decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia in December

2021. The members of the Committee are the heads of different state agencies. The Committee includes members from the legislative, executive and judicial branches. The high-level representation of the State agencies enables to increase efficiency of the execution process. The purpose of having such inter-agency committee is illustrating the State's commitment to make best effort to execute the Court's judgments and to enhance the effectiveness of the execution process. In this way the supervision of the execution process has obtained more serious approach regulated by a separate legal act etc. The Committee is accountable before the Prime Minister. We are confident enough that this format will enable each State authority to better identify the core problems and delegate those issues to more operational subdivisions.

The second project "Support to the effective execution of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights in Armenia" has just been launched - in 2023 and it also will last for two years. This project has broader scope and unlike the previous project it does not solely focus on Article 6 issues. We may say that these two projects are interrelated and complete each other. However, instead of focusing on certain articles of the Convention, the current project focuses on issues or categories which may arise under different Articles. The project specifically focuses on the problem of excessive length of proceedings, late or non-execution of national courts' judgments, effective judicial control over the pre-trial stage of the proceedings, right to freedom of assembly, and effective investigations into allegations of ill-treatment and deprivation of life.

The Armenian Government undertook an obligation to translate the interface of Hudoc Exec. It previously had made such undertaking with regard to the Hudoc interface. Now all the action plans and reports that have been translated into Armenian will be made available on the official website of the CoE.

Finally, it should be noted that Armenia has made legislative amendments by virtue of which the friendly settlements and the unilateral declarations endorsed by ECtHR serve as basis to reopen cases at domestic levels.

To conclude, I would like to stress that the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights at the national level remains a top priority for the Government of Armenia. The establishment of an Inter-Agency Committee for the execution of the ECHR judgments, the development of a case management system, are just some of the initiatives that we have undertaken to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

We are also grateful to the Council of Europe for its support in these efforts. We look forward to continuing our cooperation with the Council of Europe to further strengthen the protection of human rights in Armenia and beyond.