

OPEN PUBLIC HEARINGS OF DRAFT NSS AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, REPUBLIC OF
ARMENIA

REPORT OF
THE HONORABLE

SERZH SARGSYAN

CHAIRMAN, NSS ELABORATION INTERAGENCY COMMISSION,
SECRETARY, NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA,
MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

DECEMBER 1, 2006

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today I am honored to present to you the draft National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia and to hear your proposals, comments and assessments.

The superior mission and key function of any state is to ensure the sustainable development and security of the society and individual. It is fulfilled through unified government policy which is developed by the authorities in collaboration with representatives of the society competent in this area, and reflects the priorities of national security.

For the steadfast democratic development of independent Armenia, the development of the National Security Strategy has become imperative. Therefore, as per the Order of the Armenian President, on December 15, 2005 a representative inter-agency commission was set up to develop the draft national security strategy. The Commission comprises of senior officials of stakeholder agencies and Members of the National Assembly. The Republic of Armenia's Minister of Defense report *Landmarks of National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia* delivered in February, 2005 during the meeting of the senior staff of the Armed Forces, has served as a basis for developing the document. At seven sessions of the Commission held on February 17 - June 20, individual chapters of the report were discussed by sections. Proposals and adjustments were presented by the Commission members both during these sessions and interim periods and were discussed during the next sessions after reviewing and finalizing them. This allowed for efficient discussion with the maximum involvement of all Commission members. Overall, 615 contextual and editorial corrections were presented. After expert consultations, a considerable portion of these corrections were accepted.

The Commission, in the course of its work, demonstrated its commitment to using the knowledge and practice of the best international traditions in this area. It also adhered to the principle of professionalism. Definitely, security issues concern everybody and represent interest for all, but in order to comprehend the system of security and achieve the result, coordinated and targeted efforts are required from designers of such system. Another crucial factor is the transparency of these efforts. Information on the composition of the Commission, its calendar and session agendas, the original draft of the being developed document were placed in advance on the Ministry of Defense's website. All sessions were attended by the mass media representatives of the Republic. The draft was presented to wider circles of the public through its release in *Haykakan Banak* (Armenian Army) military-scientific magazine published by the Institute of National Strategic Studies of the RA Defense Ministry.

It is important to note the following: while formally the development of the strategy started at the end of 2005, certain preparatory work had been carried out already within the Ministry of Defense. In particular, one of the leading specialists of the Ministry passed a long-term academic training at George Marshall European Center of Strategic Studies, the reputable US RAND Corporation, National Defense University where in 2004 he successfully defended his thesis - a monograph on methodology for developing national security strategy. The paper reflected the knowledge obtained in the Russian Federation and the strategy development methodology used in Western countries. The methodological advice provided by the leading specialists of National Defense University, experts of NATO from Bulgaria, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Lithuania, Great Britain, Romania, Slovenia and other partner states

should be noted. The advice received from the management and scientists of the Russian Public Service Academy at the RF President has been most valuable for us.

Words of acknowledgement should be expressed to the Commission secretariat represented by the staff of the Institute for National Strategic Studies and led by Doctor of Political Science, Academic Supervisor Scientific Adviser for the development of the strategy Major-General H. Kotanjian for the performed academic scientific-editorial work and targeted organizational activities.

The draft strategy underwent expert assessment at leading specialized centers of the world, such as the US National Defense University, International Security Advisory Group (International Consulting Group on Security of NATO Member European Countries), and the Public Service Academy at the President of the Russian Federation. These consultations were agreed upon earlier at the high state level: with US Defense Secretary Donald Ramsfeld and Secretary of the RF National Security Council Igor Ivanov. It should be noted that the format of conducted scientific tests reflects complementarity, the key principle of the foreign policy and security strategy of our state. We received advice, as they say, from the "horse's mouth" at first hand. This allowed us to avoid unnecessary problems which are common to the strategies in some countries. For example, the strategy of a small European country duplicates the USA strategy without major changes, which has led to serious difficulties. The strategy of a former Soviet republic was drafted by invited foreign specialists. It was then translated into the native language of that country and after seeming discussions it was presented to the public and world community. A question arises among experts: "To what extent are such national security strategies national?"

We opted a different approach: by comparing the US, NATO and Russian methodologies, we selected what we thought to be the best and filled it with national context. In my view, we achieved a successful result. As evidence, the specialists of the above-mentioned reputable foreign organizations highly appreciated the work performed by us. They have noted that the applied methodology and interagency processes are consistent with modern international standards; the draft is a scientifically sound, synchronized document and represents the mature result of intellectual efforts of the Inter-Agency Commission. Comments and recommendations were also proposed by the experts concerning both the structure and the text itself. These recommendations were reviewed and considered at the stage of modifying the draft. It is important to note that the development of the national security strategy was carried out concurrently at both line-agency and territorial levels, in conformity with the fundamental provisions of the state-wide and national strategy. This approach, in fact, is a combination of two universally accepted methods.

At the present phase of developing the strategy, we consider that discussions of the draft among local experts are important. To this effect, we have held discussions. Now I would like to present to you the modified version of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia. The draft was disseminated in advance, and therefore I will focus only on those issues that are crucial for better understanding of the substance of the strategy and require some clarifications.

In terms of its structure, the strategy consists of 7 chapters and three appendices.

Chapter 1 describes the essence of the document, the foundation for developing the strategy, i.e., the principles of democratization and foreign policy of complementarity.

Chapter 2 identifies the objectives reflecting the national interests and the strategic tasks necessary for accomplishing these objectives. Overall, these objectives and tasks cover all spheres of functions of the state, society and individual.

Chapter 3 analyses the means necessary for ensuring the sustainable and secure development of the Republic of Armenia, which include international integration and democratic reforms. It is emphasized that the Republic of Armenia implements its reform strategy guided by its national interests, preserving its national identity, relying primarily on its national potential, using the extensive experience and support of the international community. Emphasis is placed also on the fact that in the course of implementing the reforms, coordinated constructive activity should be carried out by all levels of the power and the public. In our view, this approach is extremely important, since only by consolidating the efforts across the nation, we will be able to build our future, to ensure our sustainable development and security. It is very important for us that each person, each representative of any group of the society would accept the provisions of the strategy and devotedly contribute to the implementation of the tasks and objectives states therein. Since the failure of the reforms will danger impeding the development of the state and society.

We considered it appropriate to state clearly the fundamental principles of the national security which are reflected in Chapter 4 of the document, so that the requirements and earmarked activities sound clearer for the domestic and external audiences.

Our primary objective is to establish democratic values, build a legal and social state where each individual would be provided with the opportunity to live and work freely, and all necessary conditions would be ensured for unimpaired self-realization. However, to achieve such sustainable steadfast development, the country's security should be ensured. This country is positioned in a geopolitically complex region - the crossing point of the North and the South, the East and the West - where the interests of Russia, USA and European Union are bridged, and, therefore, Armenia is exposed to the impact of combination and competition of these interests.

Today, developments typical of the transition period continue to take place in Armenia. We face numerous problems, both at the domestic and regional levels. In such an environment, many threats to the Republic of Armenia's security arise, and in order to ensure our security, we should be able to identify and prioritize these threats. To accomplish this, it is crucial to select correct classification criteria. Our methodology was based on the following classification principle: threats and challenges are divided into two groups – external and internal – and in turn each group is divided into two sub-groups – symmetric and asymmetric. Such an approach is approved by the foreign experts. Threats and challenges are discussed in Chapter 5 where they are presented in accordance with the earlier mentioned classification.

Chapter 6 – which is rather extensive – consists of four sub-chapters. The first sub-chapter, where the issues of external security are analyzed, consists of two sections. Section 1 discusses the relations of the Republic of Armenia with its neighboring states – Georgia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Turkey, the Republic of Azerbaijan. As a matter of fact, the sub-section on Azerbaijan is titled “Relations with the Republic of Azerbaijan: the Nagorno-Karabakh Issue”. And this is not arbitrary: Azerbaijan links its relations with Armenia exclusively to the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. Armenia's position on

this issue is presented in this sub-chapter. In particular, it is stated that Armenia is ready to compromise only under the condition of maintaining the following principles: exclusion of any vertical relations between Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh; existence of land border with Armenia; necessity for international guarantees for creating necessary conditions for Nagorno-Karabakh's participation in progressive world processes; necessity for clear international guarantees for non-resumption of the war and ensuring the security of population of Nagorno-Karabakh. In this subchapter, Armenia's proposal to settle the problem based on international recognition of Nagorno- Karabakh people's right to self-determination is formulated. This position is anchored on sound facts which have been articulated by the Armenian leaders more than once.

Regarding our relations with Turkey, we seek to improve them through contacts both at state and non-state levels. We do not accept Turkey's position which assumes imposition of preconditions on us. Recognition of the Armenian Genocide by Turkey is regarded by us in the context of restoring historical justice for the authentic Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire and its generations, thereby excluding any possibility of new encroachments against Armenia.

In the first part of the second sub-chapter, the relations of the Republic of Armenia with international structures for security guarantee are analyzed. The CIS-CSTO, UN, European Union, Council of Europe, NATO, OSCE, World Trade Organization are highlighted. Once again it is stressed that in its foreign policy, the Republic of Armenia has adopted the principle of complementarity. It should be noted that the principle of complementarity allows us to implement a balanced policy in relation to various structures for security guarantee, based on common interests in order to maintain our independence from various force centers when taking decisions on important issues. In particular, highly prioritizing the role of our strategic partnership with Russia and CSTO for ensuring external security, we promote our relations with the USA and NATO. Such a policy allows us to maximize benefit from these two systems, avoiding dangerous extremities. We participate actively in the development and implementation of unified security mechanisms within CSTO. Armenia does not consider itself to be only a consumer of international security, but also an active participant in endeavors to maintain it. Therefore, we are involved also in international peacekeeping efforts, and in this area it is extremely important to ensure the systemic compatibility of our units with multinational forces in peace support operations.

In the second sub-chapter of Chapter 6, the strategy for ensuring domestic security is presented, and as mentioned earlier, it is built on the reforms launched in various sectors. These reforms are comprehensive and all-embracing by nature and relate to all spheres of functioning of the state, society and the individual: legislative, institutional, economic, social and information. Certainly, in all these areas some changes aimed at improving the situation have taken place, but it is an ongoing process and requires time.

The planned reforms are interrelated and they are targeted at: establishing a legal and social state; embedding democratic values, ensuring sustainable development of the economy by enhancing the system of science and education and improving its efficiency; training healthy generations who adhere to Armenian spiritual values; improving environmental protection and urban development; establishing a comprehensive health system and ensuring food safety; improving information system, etc. In view of the major intellectual potential of the Armenian people and their permanent aspiration for learning, we prioritize the reforms in the

area of science and education. We consider that the product of scientific activities should be profitable and competitive, and Armenia should be able to enter into international market with these products. And for achieving an ever-developing and highly effective science and education system consistent with the modern international standards is necessary.

Today, given the extreme significance of the defense area for the security of the Republic of Armenia, the reforms planned in this area are presented in a separate chapter. The guarantee for defense security is: combat-capable armed forces that are always prepared to oppose external threats, and effective defense institutions. Their development and improvement, and ability to demonstrate appropriate responses to new threats and challenges are part of ongoing and dynamic processes. The reforms implemented in the defense area are coordinated by nature and will proceed in collaboration with the CSTO, Russia, NATO and USA. A detailed expertise description of these reforms will be presented in Armenia's Defense Doctrine, and we have just started the preparatory work on its development. It should be emphasized again that cooperation with other states and international structures in the area of defense reforms and modernization of our Armed Forces exclusively pursues the goal of ensuring the necessary level of the country's defense capacity and is not directed against any third country.

In the fourth sub-chapter of Chapter 6, our views about developing relations with the Diaspora are reflected. When establishing these relations, we take into consideration the fact that the Diaspora representatives are citizens of other states and play a certain role in their political and public life. On the one hand, this would maintain the preservation of the national identity of Diaspora Armenians. On the other hand, the Diaspora would become a unique bridge which would help to maintain Armenia's bilateral relations with these countries and would facilitate the process of establishing democratic values in Armenia, developing trade, tourism, using more efficiently the intellectual, support and financial potential of the Diaspora in the national economy. The structures of the Armenian National Church play a major role in promoting our relations with the Diaspora.

Finally, Chapter 7 summarizes the activities of the State targeted at ensuring the sustainable development and security of the Republic of Armenia highlighted in the previous chapters.

Annex I presents the Glossary of Key Concepts and Terms developed by the Inter-Agency Commission. The Glossary is crucial for clarifying the text, because these main concepts have not been clearly defined in international policy and political science, and, therefore, they can lead to misreading. The Glossary has received positive feedback from expert circles in Washington, Moscow and Brussels. Annex II describes the list of those structures and agreements in which the Republic of Armenia is involved as a member and participant. Acronyms used in the text are explained in Annex III.

In short, a document of a statewide significance has been prepared the implementation of which will ensure the security and sustainable development of our State. Now I will be happy to answer your questions and hear your comments.

01.12.2006

OPEN PUBLIC HEARINGS OF DRAFT NSS AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

ARMENIA'S NSS ELABORATION METHODOLOGY AND INTERAGENCY PROCESS.

**SUPPORTING REPORT OF MAJOR GENERAL HAYK KOTANJYAN
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ACADEMIC SUPERVISOR OF THE NSS PROJECT,
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COUNTERTERRORISM FELLOW (USA)**

The Honorable National Assembly,
The Honorable Mr. Speaker,
The Honorable Mr. Minister,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

With your permission, I will present the process and methodology of developing the National Security Strategy.

The draft of the key political document was developed thanks to the extensive joint efforts of members of the Inter-Agency Commission and dozens of supporting expert groups.

Some background information about the Commission:

It was established last year based on the directive of the President of the Republic of Armenia and recommendation of the Secretary of National Security Council and Minister of Defense. The Commission is comprised of deputy ministers and persons with an equivalent status who are involved in issues related to the sustainable and secure development of their agency sectors, as well as deputies of the National Assembly. Around half of the Commission members have an academic scientific degree of a candidate or doctor of sciences, including two academicians. Four generals, two diplomats with the rank of an Ambassador and Plenipotentiary Minister are involved in the Commission. The Chairman of the Commission is one of the designers and managers of the RA and NKR security systems.

At the first session the Chairman conveyed to the Commission that it should adhere to the principles of professionalism, transparency and democracy. Special emphasis was placed on addressing a complex problem, i.e. ensuring methodological compatibility of the Commission members since they represent 19 various agencies.

Consultations held with experts of the Russian Academy of Public Service to the President of Russia played a major role in addressing this problem. The assistance of our American partners was also invaluable: on our request, highly qualified specialists of the US National Defense University organized a methodological workshop for the members of the Inter-Agency Commission in Yerevan.

In the course of developing the first political document of state-wide significance for Armenia and organizing the work of the Commission, it became necessary to consider the fact that in the

Republic there is no scientific school functional in the area of security. The Armenian scientific community has quite a small number of experts who have been trained at leading foreign schools in the security area. The respectful participants of today's open public discussion are aware that only few Armenian specialists have succeeded in obtaining their high professional qualification in Academic committees specialized in the security area. In view of this reality, the development of the professional foundation for the National Security Strategy has relied primarily on the professional potential which emerged during the period of independence in the so-called security framework agencies. This relates to those experts of the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and several other agencies who have passed professional training at well-known foreign centers.

Today we publicly disclose the fact that the Ministry of Defense of Armenia has been involved in developing the Concept of National Security in confidential official procedure as early as since 1992. This work was practically initiated from the very first days of forming the Armed Forces of Armenia. It proceeded in close collaboration with progressive experts who tried to conceive and interpret the transitional political developments occurring in Russia which moved along the path of democratization after the so-called Perestroika. Words of acknowledgement should be addressed to the specialists of the Methodological Center for Research in International Relations of the Diplomatic Academy of the RF MFA and Russian Academy of Administration who at that stage cooperated with their partners at Harvard and Yale Universities. We worked closely with the Chair of Military and Political Sciences of the Academy of the Russian General Staff, as well as the specialists of the Russian Academy of Military Science.

In 2000, when Serzh Sargsyan returned to the Ministry of Defense from the Ministry of National Security, work on updating the document for official use titled *Principles of Military Policy of the Republic of Armenia: Military and Political Perspective of National Security* was instigated. The Minister of Defense of Armenia who is well familiar with the Russian methodology of developing the national security concept, foresightedly chose to expand through leading US and European research centers the horizon of theoretical-methodological knowledge which had been built up within our agency. The specialists of the Ministry of Defense of Armenia studied Western programs through academic training at the National Defense University, RAND Corporation and G. J. Marshal Center.

However, this does not assume that the Armenian Document is a duplication of the US or Russian original. And the answer to these questions is extremely crucial. And in this regard, the NSS Elaboration Interagency Commission did launch the independent development of the national security document. The document it referenced in press differently – “Strategy” or “Concept” of National Security – sometimes without attaching any importance to the issue of distinguishing between these two approaches. The difference is conditioned by the preference for either European or American methodologies used in developing the paper. A Strategy, rather than a Concept, has been developed by our Commission. And I think that a brief clarification is necessary. The European tradition assumes a two-phased development of the principal political document on national security. During the first phase the “concept” is developed which primarily answers the question “What?”, and on its basis the “strategy” is designed which means to answer the question “How?”.

The US methodology implies systemic approach to finding answers to the questions “What?” and “How?”. Armenia has selected such a dynamic model of developing its National Security

Strategy which is aimed not only at the coordination of views on security and theoretical arguments about threats and directions of countering them, but also at identifying the future activities and their priorities in order to ensure the secure development of the Armenian society through democratic reforms.

Contextually, the Strategy is targeted at the multi-vectored balance of security orientations, as well as transformation of the society through democratic reforms and integration with the international community. This feature of the document was discussed during academic testing conducted in Washington, Brussels and Moscow. The requirement for not traversing the boundaries of professionalism and party impartiality set forth by the Chairman of the Commission should be considered as a crucial factor.

Another distinguishing feature is the concurrent development of the interdependent and organically interrelated National Security Strategy and the package of agency implementation plans for its execution in all areas of functioning of the Republic of Armenia. Thus, by their representation in the composition of the Commission, all ministries participated in the development of the unified Strategy, and, as a result, today they have their draft implementation plans.

At the preparatory phase, the efforts of developing the Strategy were built on synchronizing of results of persistent official elaborations carried out in cooperation with the Russian partners, as well as our monographic theoretical-methodological research *Development of National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia in the Context of South Caucasus Regional Security*, defended at National Security School of the US National Defense University. The report of the RA Minister of Defense *Guidelines of National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia* served as a basis for developing the Document at the inter-agency level.

The experts in Moscow, Washington and Brussels have assessed the above document as a profound professional material and have recommended it be used as an underlying document for developing the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia. Based on the schedule of sessions disclosed via the Internet, the sections of the Draft were discussed twice: firstly, at the phase of forming the mosaic of proposals to the main text of the report, and then at the phase of finalizing the amended draft. During seven sessions, 615 proposals were presented by the Commission members. These proposals were analyzed and incorporated in the language of the draft after joint expert consultations with the Commission members. The professionalism and commitment for quality input in the collective outcome demonstrated by most of the Commission members should be noted. Tribute should be paid to the skills of participative management demonstrated by the Chairman of the Commission. This, in turn, helped to combine in a synergetic manner the diversity of views which, in some cases, reflected the existing objective differences among agencies' interests.

The Chairman of the Commission preferred the modern standards of open and impartial academic dispute at highly reputable professional centers of the world to the possible biased political discussions among non-specialists. This relates to testing of the model which is the consolidated reflection of the essence of Armenia's balanced security policy in relationships with Moscow, Washington, and Brussels. In addition, all our partners had been preliminarily informed about the selection of such a non-trivial reviewing model. It should be noted with satisfaction that the US Defense Secretary, the Security Council Secretary of the Russian

Federation and the leadership of NATO kindly responded to the request of the Chairman of the Commission Serzh Sargsyan on organizing of external reviews.

The overall picture of the assessments given to the Document is as follows: Academic Committee of the US National Defense University: “The inter-agency process of developing the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia and its product are consistent with the modern methodological standards”; joint expert group of the Chairs of National Security and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Administration at the RF President: “The draft National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia is the mature outcome of coordinated efforts of the Inter-Agency Commission”; International Consulting Group on Security of NATO-Member European Countries: “In scientific terms, the draft document is comprehensively sound”. The recommendations presented to the Commission by these professional schools are highly valuable. It is important to note that these recommendations have been made exclusively in the form of advice with the clear understanding that the development of the national political document is the responsibility of the authorities of the Republic of Armenia. Open discussions at extended sessions of the Academic Scientific Council of Yerevan State University and Presidium of the National Academy of Science also deserve attention.

The newly established Institute after Drastamat Kanayan has assumed the role of an analytical coordinating unit of the Inter-Agency Commission. Here, the proposals coming from both internal and external circles are analyzed from the perspective of national interests of the Republic of Armenia and then presented to the Commission. At the same time, the development of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia is the best instrument for determining the caliber diameter of future activities of the Institute in the area of national strategic research.

As another product of the efforts exerted by the Commission, I would mention the practical piloting of the model of activity of the National Security Council. The Chairman who manages inter-agency processes has succeeded in clarifying significantly the possible role to be played by the National Security Council during the development of the unified package of strategic documents of national and agency scale.

Of course, exchanging political messages on more sensitive issues of national security within the format of professional dispute with our partners in Washington, Moscow and Brussels was an important function in external testing of the draft strategy.

Dear colleagues, allow me to set forth a proposal concerning the implementation of the discussed document. I believe that if the Strategy is transformed into a law, it will become a “straight jacket” which will constrict the political activities of not only government, but also nongovernmental entities during the democratic reforms of the Armenian state system and civil society. In this regard, I would propose that the National Security Strategy to be confirmed by the Executive in accordance with an appropriate amendment to the existing Bill.

**SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR APPROVAL
DECEMBER, 2006**

DRAFT

NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY

OF THE

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

I. THE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA *

The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia is the state-wide political document that systematically presents the basic state policy principles which ensure the security of the individual, society and state, as well as the preservation of identity and steadfast development of all Armenians.

The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia is carried out through sequenced planning and the implementation of a unified state policy in all sectors of the country's activities. That policy is developed by the authorities in collaboration with civil society and taking into account the specifics of agency and territorial security.

The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia is built on the principle of democratization of society, as well as the principle of complementarity. The latter is aimed at ensuring national security through international cooperation, i.e., diversification of foreign political relations and improvement of its defense structures.

The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia is subject to adjustments based on internal and international situations, changes to the systems and priorities of threats and challenges, as well as the implementation of objectives stated within this document.

II. THE PRINCIPLES OF NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

The following principles of national security are crucial for assessing Armenia's present and building its future:

§ The national security of the Republic of Armenia ensures the protected existence and stable, evolutionary development of the Armenian people and all residents, i.e., individuals, families, and ethnic groups of the Republic of Armenia, and Armenia itself as a sovereign, democratic, legal, and social state with a market economy and rich in spiritual and cultural values within its developing civil society, as well as the rules of law, ideological and political pluralism.

* *The Armenian version of this document is the original.*

§ Major threats to the national security of the Republic of Armenia include threats that endanger the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia, the physical existence of its residents and all Armenian people; threats endangering the harmonious co-existence of the Armenian people and all ethnic communities residing within the territory of the Republic, their normal daily activities, and their spiritual and cultural values, as well as the failure to establish and develop liberal-market and democratic systems that are necessary for the strengthening and sustainable development of the Republic of Armenia as an independent Armenian State system.

§ The main guarantee for the national security of the Republic of Armenia is the operational system that guarantees and protects democratic values - the state, society, individual, fundamental rights and freedoms - as well as the active system of a harmonious development of the Armenian people and all ethnic communities residing within the territory of Armenia.

§ Ensuring the national security of the Republic of Armenia is fulfilled through the early identification, prevention, and neutralization of risks threatening Armenian constitutional democratic system, civil society and the existence, identity and sustainable development of the Republic of Armenia, its population, and the Armenian people.

III. THE NATIONAL INTERESTS, OBJECTIVES AND TASKS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

The objectives reflecting the national interests of the Republic of Armenia include:

- The establishment, sustainable development, and prosperity of Armenia as a democratic, legal and social state with a market economy system and a civil society;
- The guaranteed protection of the physical existence of the population of the Republic of Armenia;
- Under globalization, the preservation and development of the national identity of the Armenian nation having contribution to the world civilization and bears an extensive intellectual potential and rich cultural heritage;
- Strengthening the international role and reputation of the Republic of Armenia, establishing a stable peace in the region, and enhancing good neighborly relations and cooperation with all states, particularly those in the region;

- Ensuring sustainable security, peace, development and prosperity for the Republic of Armenia along with a consolidation of abilities of Armenians;

- Ensuring the guaranteed and protected human and citizen rights and freedoms;

- The preservation and development of the spiritual and cultural values of all ethnic groups residing within the territory of the Republic of Armenia, and the exclusion of any form of ethnic, religious or other type of discrimination in all sectors of human activity;

- Ensuring the development of the society and economy based on scientific achievements; establishment of a competitive scientific and educational system which is consistent with international criteria and is anchored on national values; promotion of branches of Armenian studies, i.e. Armenian language, literature, history and culture, as a factor which ensures the longevity of the national spiritual-intellectual heritage and embodies the national identity;

- The sustainable demographic growth, as well as food security and environmental protection of the Republic of Armenia, and the development of a comprehensive and efficient health system in line with the highest international standards;

- The implementation of human and citizen constitutional rights and freedoms in the area of information access and use; assurance of availability of information about Armenia internationally.

In order to achieve the above objectives, the following strategic tasks should be accomplished:

- The guaranteed protection of the physical security of the population of the Republic of Armenia and its continued economic, social and spiritual development;

- The establishment and protection of democratic national-state and civic-public structures in the Republic of Armenia;

- The guaranteed protection of the Republic of Armenia's constitutional order and all elements of the state system, its territorial integrity, inviolability of its borders, and the proper functioning of its governmental system;

- The assurance and protection of the dependable operation of those infrastructures of the Republic of Armenia that deal with life essential areas law order, governance, energy, transport and communications;

- The fight against trans-national crime, including international terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their components, dissemination of narcotics and counterfeit medicines, human trafficking, and production and import of low quality food products;
- The development of a philosophy and state concept which promotes a comprehensive integration of all Armenians throughout the world;
- The development and realization of a unified state policy in the area of science and education, governed by the objective of ensuring international competitiveness of the national economy and high efficiency of the scientific-educational system, particularly through innovative development;
- The development of a multi-faceted national culture, based on preserving its uniqueness and utilizing universal cultural achievements;
- The development and consistent realization of a unified state information policy by a special body; harmonization of the national information system with progressive international standards, governed by the objective of ensuring the implementation of human and citizen rights to information access and use, and complete international availability of information about Armenia;
- The establishment and long-term development of a favorable environment for present and future generations of the Republic of Armenia; protection and efficient use of natural resources; coordinated rehabilitation of the environmental situation; integration with international structures dealing with modern monitoring and prevention of natural and technogenic emergency situations; reliable forecast, prevention and containment of natural and technogenic threats; and ensuring the security, reliability and sustainable development of urban development systems.

IV. THE DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

The sustainable development of the Republic of Armenia and building of its secure future should be regarded in the context of regional and international security because Armenia's security has not only a domestic, but also an international dimension. In this regard, the principles for ensuring the development and security of Armenia, key strategic tasks which are based on national

and universal democratic values, are oriented towards resolving international (including regional) integration issues.

The Republic of Armenia, which regained its independence at the end of the 20th century, still retains certain specifics which are typical of states in a transitional phase. After the break-up of the Soviet Union, threats to security at the intra-regional and inter-regional levels emerged in Armenia's surrounding areas. Intra-regional threats are primarily due to the existing national dissent and armed conflicts in the region. Inter-regional threats have originated as a result of the efforts of those external forces attempting to control military-political situations by various means or methods, or use those situations to serve their interests.

As a point bridging the interests of the East and the West, the North and the South, Europe and Asia, Russia, the USA, the European Union and other parties, the South Caucasus region is subject to the impact of the combination and competition of these interests. Therefore, the situation becomes more complicated because of the noticeably politicized issue of ensuring security and ongoing developments in the region.

The sustainable and secure development of the Republic of Armenia requires state-level coordination of balanced activities targeted at ensuring external and domestic security. The main path for such coordination is the democratization of the Republic of Armenia, which should take place through sustainable development and international integration, along with the strengthening of the Republic of Armenia. Cognizant of this need, the Republic of Armenia is adopting a strategy of ongoing reforms. The Republic of Armenia is implementing this strategy with the condition of preserving its national identity, relying mainly on its national potential, and using the experience and support of the international community.

The strategy of democratic reforms requires coordinated and constructive actions by state structures, all branches of the authorities, and society as a whole. The delay or failure of these reforms poses a direct threat to national security because it could undermine the sustainable development of the country.

V. THREATS AND CHALLENGES TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

In the course of building a legal and social state through sustainable development and while establishing universal democratic values, threats and challenges arise that threaten the national security of the Republic of Armenia and hinder its stable growth. In recent years, phenomena have emerged which can be treated as inherent factors of international relations. They significantly impact the structures of international security and military-political forces, forcing the latter to revise their strategic objectives and restructure their operations. Thus, international terrorism, its financing and legalization of the proceeds of crime impact the accelerated development, expansion, restructuring and, above all, integration of national and international security systems.

Threats appear in both the domestic and external relations of the Republic of Armenia. They relate to all spheres of functioning and development of the state, and are of a symmetric or asymmetric nature.

Symmetric external threats include: threats to the physical existence of the population of the Republic of Armenia, the state's independence, sovereignty and potential encroachments on its territorial integrity; resumption of military actions by Azerbaijan to attempt a military resolution to the Karabakh problem; internal civil collisions and expansive military operations in states neighboring the Republic of Armenia; deterioration or dissolution of friendly military-political coalitions, as well as the establishment and strengthening of hostile alliances; external infringements aimed at undermining the Armenian economy; disruptive operations of intelligence services of other states; Armenia's political, economic, cultural and communications isolation; disinformation on Armenia and the formation of negative opinions within the international community regarding Armenia; and the weakening of the Republic of Armenia's international reputation.

Asymmetric external threats include: use of irregular external military force against the Republic of Armenia; the weakening of the national and cultural identity of the Armenian Diaspora; expansion and penetration of international terrorism; dissemination and trafficking of weapons of mass destruction and narcotics; money laundering and financing of terrorism, cross-border, as well as wide-ranging transnational outbreaks of pestilence and epidemics; and natural and technogenic disasters.

Symmetric domestic threats include: inadequate quality, perceived results of establishment of attributes typical to a legal and social state; underdevelopment of the political system and state functions; inadequate level of the sustainability of the civil society; inadequate establishment of the human rights protection system; lack of state guarantees for social justice; unsatisfactory level of operations of internal security and justice systems; inadequate government-regulated financial-economic mechanisms and unstable financial system; inefficient state governance over reliable energy supplies, domestic communications; presence and increase of monopolies in the economic sector; unsatisfactory role of the state in various sectors of the economy and in proportionate involvement of human resources in other spheres of professional employment; the decline of social role of the scientific-educational systems and their links to the economy; insufficient state activities targeting the preservation and development of the spiritual-cultural heritage; imperfect state policy of strengthening a system of values, worthy of an independent state, among the youth; inefficient state administration of natural resources, as well as lack of information opportunities for the state.

Asymmetric domestic threats include: increased social stratification and poverty; high level of shadow economy; disruption of employment and social security systems; distortion of national identity, spiritual and moral values; social tensions due to violations against freedom of speech and lack of awareness; declining role of the family and individual; criminalization of public and state relations; corruption (especially bribery); widespread lack of public trust in the authorities; declining role of civil society in the democratic control of the state system; formation of an atmosphere of public intolerance; negative demographic tendencies (low birthrates, worsening indicators of morbidity and mortality, average life expectancy, quality of life, and emigration); uncontrolled and illegal migration processes; “brain drain” of the academic, scientific, and cultural potential; pestilence and outbreaks of epidemics within the state’s territory; catastrophic earthquakes and other natural and technogenic disasters; and the exhaustion of natural resources.

In order to prevent these threats and eliminate their consequences, as well as to ensure the sustainable development of the Republic of Armenia, the policy implemented in the Republic of Armenia is based on its National Security Strategy.

VI. EXTERNAL AND DOMESTIC SECURITY STRATEGIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

1. THE EXTERNAL SECURITY STRATEGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

The external security strategy of the Republic of Armenia is based on the aspirations of the Armenian people to hold a worthy position in the international community, best demonstrate its capabilities, contribute – to the greatest extent possible – to the advancement of the civilized world, and protect the fundamental human and citizen rights and freedoms.

Armenia takes into account that in the modern world order, characterized by universal integration, it is very difficult for individual states to ensure their national security solely based on their own strengths. Therefore, one of the basic ways to ensure the external security of the Republic of Armenia is the international integration.

The main objectives of the external security of the Republic of Armenia in various spheres are as follows:

ü Defense: to protect from external military threats the physical security of the Armenian people, the population of Armenia, and the Republic of Armenia's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and inviolability of its borders; to participate in efforts targeted at strengthening international peace and security, as well as in combating terrorism and illegal trafficking of narcotics; the guarantee for the independence of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh and the physical existence of its population;

ü Political: to integrate with international security systems; to raise the international reputation of the Republic of Armenia; to enhance international dialogue and regional cooperation; to see a fair and peaceful resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh problem, based on the right to self-determination of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh and its recognition by the international community; to prevent the threats of spiritual and linguistic-cultural alienation and weakened national identity of the Armenian Diaspora.

Ū Economic: to ensure the sustainable economic development of the Republic of Armenia; improve its external competitiveness and neutralize attempts to isolate it; to participate actively in processes of new international division of labor.

Ū Information: to integrate Armenia in the international information arena along with ensuring the availability of the Republic of Armenia's information field for the international community; to effectively counter disinformation and propaganda against the Republic of Armenia.

In order to implement its external security strategy, Armenia has adopted the principle of complementarity in its foreign policy. It implies maximal expansion of foreign relations coupled with a realistic balancing of relations with different power centers in order to preserve its independence in decision-making processes. The principle of complementarity does not assume maintaining parity at any cost. Instead, it is aimed at an efficient use of integration opportunities offered through international relations. Armenia practices its complementary policy, realistically taking into account the strategic interests that are common for the international community and Armenia.

1.1 The External Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia at the Regional Level

The Republic of Armenia proceeds from the following positions: formation of a favorable environment for regional cooperation, creation of a working security system, establishment of good neighborly, mutually beneficial relations with states. Such an approach provides the prerequisites needed to establish a stable peace in the region, achieve peaceful resolution of conflicts, first of all, the Karabakh problem, eliminate the risk of a resumption of military actions, and overcome existing demarcation lines.

In a complex and unstable regional environment, threats are diverse and have their distinguishing features and specific methods for neutralization. They should be regarded, therefore, within the format of relations with individual states.

1.1.1 Relations with Georgia

Relations between Armenia and Georgia are of strategic significance since they contribute to the solution of a number of primary security issues for the Republic of Armenia and the entire South Caucasus region. These relations also are important from the viewpoint of mutual benefits, because the geographical

positions of both states provide the opportunity to guarantee, through economic and transport cooperation, Armenia's connection with Russia and other countries in Europe, and Georgia's links with Iran and the Middle East. In view of the blockades imposed on Armenia by Turkey and Azerbaijan, Georgia is the country through which Armenia's main economic and transport connection with the outside world is provided. Moreover, as a result of its geographical position and geo-political developments, Georgia plays the role of an economic and trade bridge for Armenia, Turkey and Azerbaijan. The political approaches of Armenia and Georgia to key issues of European integration create a foundation for deepening the friendship and strategic partnership between the two countries in the long run. This, in turn, would contribute to the regional integration of the South Caucasus states involved in the European Neighborhood Program.

The Armenian community of Georgia, especially the factor of inhabited by Armenians Javakhq, adds a strategic nature to Armenian–Georgian relations. In this respect, any destabilization of the situation in Georgia is a potential matter of concern for Armenia. It may pose a threat to Armenia's economic relations and transport communications with the external world while inter-ethnic tension may create anti-Armenian attitudes and threaten the security of Armenians living in Javakhq. The Republic of Armenia and Georgia, both being members of a number of international organizations, and in particular being involved in the European Neighborhood Program, voluntarily took upon themselves an obligation to protect the democratic freedoms of national and religious minorities and maintain political, civic, social, economic, educational, and cultural rights in compliance with European standards. In this regard, the Republic of Armenia considers the importance of targeted cooperation with Georgia regarding the sustainable and safe development of the social, spiritual and cultural sectors for the Armenian population of Javakhq, and in fact, the entire Georgian–Armenian population.

At the same time, Armenia believes that the tendencies of expansion of joint Georgian–Turkish, Georgian–Azerbaijani economic, transportation, and military programs are heavy with the risk of shattering the balance in the South Caucasus region, in relation to Armenia's isolation. With that warning, Armenia is attempting to balance these programs by proposing a re-launching of the Sukhumi–Tbilisi and the Kars–Gyumri–Tbilisi railway lines which are strategically important for both Armenia and the entire region itself.

In the military arena, there is practically no cooperation between the two countries, while from a strategic perspective, Armenian–Georgian military cooperation is also mutually beneficial. The activation of that cooperation will promote the establishment of sustainable peace and strengthening of security in the region.

Thus, Armenia considers that friendly relations with Georgia stem from the strategic interests of both states.

1.1.2 Relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran

Armenia's relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran are important in terms of maintaining political and economic stability in the region.

With its huge economic, military and cultural potential, Iran is one of the important players in the formation of the military-political situation in the region. Armenia attaches importance to the involvement of Iran in finding solutions to the problems of the South Caucasus and regards it as one of the factors for maintaining stability in the South Caucasus. Iran is a state that borders Nagorno-Karabakh and maintains a balanced policy in the process of resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. Besides that, the traditionally existing positive attitude towards the Armenian community in Iran creates yet another favorable condition for the development of inter-state relations between Armenia and Iran.

Armenia's relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran are mainly economic and cultural in nature. Armenia will continue expanding this cooperation to increase trade levels, form new energy and communication lines, and efficiently use the existing economic and cultural potential.

The strategic programs for economic cooperation include:

- Iran-Armenia energy programs through which Armenia will join the new network of regional pipelines, ensure diversification of energy sources in its energy systems, and thereby strengthen its energy and economic security;
- Construction of an Armenia–Iran railway and second highway.

Cooperation with Iran is that important part of Armenia's policy which also creates a favorable attitude towards Armenia in the Islamic world. Armenia attempts to neutralize the possible threat of abusing the factor of Islamic unity in Azerbaijan–Iran relations by maintaining balanced relations with Iran. Armenia also considers the importance of regular Armenian–Iranian consultations on security matters.

Standing on the crossroads of Christian and Islamic civilizations, Armenia can play a role in mitigating tensions between Iran and the West by demonstrating an example of co-existence and tolerance. The policy adopted by Armenia assumes a harmonious combination of its cooperation with the West and Iran.

1.1.3 Relations with the Republic of Turkey

The issue of settling Armenian–Turkish relations remains one of the important problems in the region because it has a direct impact on the establishment of regional stability and the development of regional cooperation. The tensions in Armenian–Turkish relations provoked by the fact that Turkey has set certain pre-conditions on Armenia, and, as a consequence has led to the absence of diplomatic relations with Turkey, has given rise to a number of threats to the national security of Armenia.

Armenian–Turkish relations are characterized by the existence of the following issues.

Turkey seeks to settle the Nagorno-Karabakh problem in light of the interests of its ally, Azerbaijan. To that end, Turkey which seeks European Union accession, within the framework of providing an extensive military and active political and diplomatic assistance to Azerbaijan, imposes blockades on the Republic of Armenia, which participates in the European Neighborhood Program.

The situation surrounding the issue of the recognition of the Armenian Genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire is worthy of special attention. The Republic of Armenia, being in agreement with the lawful demand of Western Armenians—to restore historical justice to the Ottoman Empire’s native Armenian population and its generations, at the same time, views the recognition of the Armenian Genocide in the context of excluding any possibility of new genocides against Armenia’s population, i.e., as one of the security guarantees for the existence of the population of the Republic of Armenia. Armenia also sees the settlement of the problem in the context of Turkish–European relations since Turkey’s integration with Europe assumes reforming its own policies, in line with European values.

The Republic of Armenia seeks to achieve regulation of relations with Turkey and is determined to start a consistent constructive dialogue, including direct contacts both at the state and non-governmental organization level. Armenia is ready for dialogue with Turkey without any preconditions.

1.1.4 Relations with the Republic of Azerbaijan

The Nagorno-Karabakh problem is the basic issue in the Armenian–Azerbaijani relations and their future developments. Armenia and Azerbaijan are neighbors. They are included in the UN, the CIS structure, Council of Europe and other international organizations, the NATO Partnership for Peace Program, and the European Neighborhood Program. They have both committed to numerous international obligations with each other on establishing friendly relations with each other. Along with increasing regional integration activities, the need to identify and establish areas of cooperation between Armenia and Azerbaijan is becoming increasingly imperative.

Azerbaijani authorities link the regulation of relations with Armenia based on a settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem exclusively in favor of Azerbaijan. Such a position impairs the solution of the problem. Armenia considers that the regulation of inter-state relations and, first of all, regulation of economic relations, will promote the regional development and integration processes, and will provide an opening for a realistic solution to the Karabakh problem.

The position of the Republic of Armenia on Nagorno-Karabakh is anchored in the following fundamental facts.

1. The legitimate establishment of the sovereign Nagorno-Karabakh Republic – (NKR) was realized according to the constitution and laws of the USSR and in conformity with the legal limits of the day. A legitimate referendum, and the later collapse of the Soviet Union confirmed the termination of Nagorno-Karabakh population’s territorial-administrative subordination to the Azerbaijan SSR. It also confirmed the legal fact of political cessation of legal subordination to the USSR.

2. Consistently, since 1991, throughout the entire territory of NKR, democratically instituted legislative, executive and judiciary powers have been exercised. The NKR Constitution has been adopted through referendum. Legislation consistent with international standards is being drafted. The Nagorno Karabakh Republic Parliament, President and local authorities are democratically elected. A legitimate self-defense army, law enforcement structures and social, scientific, educational, cultural institutions, adequate modern banking, financial-credit, taxation and customs systems have been established and operate efficiently.

The mission of resolving the Karabakh problem has been assumed by the OSCE Minsk Group. Represented by Co-chairs from Russia, the USA and France (which is also an EU member,) the Minsk Group comprehensively reflects the correlation of stakeholders in regional developments. In addition, the Minsk Group constitutes the more appropriate mediation format because, as permanent members of the UN Security Council, the three Co-chair countries play a significant role in international relations. Armenia sees the solution of the problem within the Minsk Group, through compromises and peaceful regulation, based on the international requirements for guaranteeing the physical security of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh, and confirming its right to self-determination, as well as the conditions necessary for the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's sustainable, democratic development aimed at European integration.

Armenia considers acceptable only those solutions to the problem that are based on the following three principles:

1. Exclusion of Nagorno-Karabakh's subordination to Azerbaijan. Exclusion of Nagorno-Karabakh's existence as an enclave. Existence of Nagorno-Karabakh's land border .
2. International guarantees for creating necessary conditions for Nagorno-Karabakh's participation in progressive world integration processes; and
3. The necessity for clear international guarantees for the non-resumption of war and ensuring the security of the Nagorno-Karabakh population.

Azerbaijan's militaristic policy on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, i.e., its ambition to settle the problem through military supremacy over Armenia, represents a direct military threat to the security of Armenia. The existence of a permanent military threat impedes the implementation of radical reforms in Armenia's defense sector and leads to an arms race. The need to ensure the military security of Armenia, therefore, requires the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia to be on a constant state of high combat alert. In this sphere, the major goal of Armenia's Armed Forces is to ensure the physical security of the people of the Republic of Armenia and the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, and the inviolability of their borders.

The economic and transportation blockades of Armenia by Azerbaijan and its policy of excluding Armenia from regional energy and transportation projects also pose serious threats to Armenia's security. They are targeted at Armenia's economic isolation and destruction by disrupting the in integration processes initiated for regional development.

Armenia has stated many times that the only realistic way for the development of the region, including the regulation of the Karabakh problem, is the initiation of regional cooperation, which includes the implementation of common economic programs, collaboration in the areas of transportation, environmental protection, and other fields. The establishment of certain relations can create those areas of contact that will make possible the creation of an atmosphere of mutual trust between the two peoples. This, in turn, is the crucial prerequisite for resolving the problem and establishing stable peace in the region.

1.2 The External Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia at the International Level

Armenia has become a member of several international and regional organizations which adhere to universally accepted principles, views, and values. They function within applicable legal-contractual networks. Armenia enjoys the rights afforded by these associations and carries out the associated responsibilities. The Republic of Armenia participates in the efforts against international terrorism, initiatives on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, international peace-keeping missions, and other similar programs. Armenia is engaged in numerous initiatives, such as the European Neighborhood program with the European Union and the Millennium Challenge program with the USA; extensive investment programs with the Russian Federation.

The Republic of Armenia is not only a beneficiary of international security, but also actively participates in efforts to maintain it.

1.2.1 The Strategy of the Republic of Armenia in Post-Soviet Territories:

Integration within CIS / CSTO

The CIS, established in the post-Soviet territories, intended to bridge the military, political, and economic vacuum that emerged after the break-up of the Soviet Union. In this regard, the CIS has played a significant role in preventing the complete disintegration of political, economic, military, scientific, educational, cultural links, and communications that existed among the former Soviet republics.

The Republic of Armenia, which actively participates in the processes that take place within the CIS (including the military area), nevertheless prefers the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), considering it a crucial factor to safeguard the security of Armenia.

The CSTO's Caucasus program is carried out through Armenian-Russian military cooperation. Therefore, its importance for Armenia increasingly grows. Specifically, the development of the CSTO military component is focused on: establishing effective mechanisms for military-technical cooperation; developing efficient means of combating international terrorism; curtailing the illegal trafficking of arms and drugs; thwarting international organized crime and combating other trans-national threats; and sharing of information in these areas — all with CSTO member states. This contributes to the solution of problems that are crucial for the military security of Armenia.

The prospect for further enhancement of co-operation within the CSTO is seen by Armenia in the context of its foreign political complementary strategy.

1.2.2 International Organizations and European Integration

Armenia consistently continues, and will continue its efficient and long-term cooperation with the UN, the Council of Europe, the European Union, as well as NATO and the OSCE—systems that ensure international security.

Armenia views its sustainable and secure development within the context of deepening its European integration. Relations with European structures are of key significance for Armenia. The European path of development was not selected by chance. Rather, it is based on the public awareness of the Armenian people, who share European spiritual, historical and cultural commonalities and similar approaches to world outlooks and values.

–United Nations (UN)

In the system of international organizations and international structures of security and cooperation, the Republic of Armenia highlights the role of the United Nations. Armenia is actively involved in the activities of UN bodies and is represented on various UN committees and commissions. Armenia closely cooperates with the Anti-Terrorism Committee under the UN Security Council. Armenia is interested in continuing its activities in various UN structures that derive from its security, economic, and humanitarian objectives.

–European Union (EU)

Armenia's relations with the European Union are linked to objective geo-strategic developments, the philosophy of creating a new democratic world order. More notable developments include the increased role of the European Union in world politics and economy as a result of its expansion, and hence, the inclusion of the South Caucasus in the European Union's Neighborhood Program.

The European Neighborhood policy is important for Armenia not only from a security perspective, but also in a wider, conceptual context. It anticipates promoting integrative processes towards the establishment of stability and an atmosphere of mutual trust – both in individual and regional forms – which foretells resolution of problems faced by Armenia due to its blockade, and also by the entire South Caucasus.

The European Neighborhood also holds major economic significance for Armenia. The European Union is Armenia's largest trade partner, and its actions aim to develop regional cooperation, establish a market economy system, and implement reform programs in Armenia.

Thus, the strategic nature of the relations between Armenia and the European Union ensures their continued, long-term and ever-strengthening expansion. On its way to European integration, Armenia has been implementing reforms in its governance, legislative, economic, and social sectors. It continues its processes for greater economic liberalization, ensuring its sustainable economic growth. The foundation for the advancement of further relations with the European Union is the framework of the European Neighborhood Program's Individual Partnership Program which Armenia is realizing and which provides a coordinated nature to the development of these relations.

–Council of Europe (CE)

Armenia is a member of the Council of Europe and is involved in its bodies: the Parliamentary Assembly, the Council of Ministers, and several other structures. In its efforts to implement reforms and strengthen democratic values, Armenia considers fulfilling its commitments to the Council of Europe to be of primary importance. Within the framework of the Council of Europe, Armenia will continue implementing reforms in the country targeted at the protection of human rights and democracy, bringing them in line with European standards, and ensuring the rule of law. The positive influence of cooperation with the Council of Europe on ensuring Armenia's security is obvious. In its foreign policy, Armenia should reflect – more specifically – the reality of the increasing role of the Council of Europe in ensuring regional security in the South Caucasus.

–North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Armenia-NATO relations have their important role in ensuring Armenia's security. Therefore, Armenia will continue implementing joint programs with the Organization.

In recent years, Armenia–NATO cooperation has become substantive and reached a new level. This is due not only to Armenia's desire to deepen its relations with the Alliance, but also to a new policy adopted by NATO where - in strategic terms - the South Caucasus region and the development of individual relationships are under a special focus.

Armenia-NATO relations are developed within the Individual Partnership Action Program (IPAP.) The realization of this Program is aimed to help Armenia in implementing defense and wide-scale political institutional reforms, modernizing its structures of security, defense and crisis management, ensuring military interaction with its Euro-Atlantic partners and systemic compatibility. With this goal, the Republic of Armenia uses NATO's several defense and force planning programs within the Partnership for Peace program (PfP), as well as the Review Document as tools. Armenia considers the Individual Partnership Action Program to be an important mechanism for the further enhancement of political dialogue with NATO.

The enhancement of cooperation with NATO also seeks to strengthen bilateral relations with European countries. Most of these countries are members of NATO and expansion of cooperation between these countries and Armenia is contributed greatly by the North Atlantic Alliance.

–Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

The OSCE plays a significant role for Armenia because a primary security issue facing Armenia - the consultation and negotiation process for the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem – is within the framework of the OSCE. Accordingly, Armenia fully supports the OSCE Minsk Group. The OSCE's Conventional Forces in Europe and the Vienna Document also play an important role in efforts to strengthen Armenia's regional security environment. Therefore, the strengthening of the OSCE's role, as well as close cooperation with relevant OSCE structures which are aimed at deepening and making irreversible the democratic processes in the country, derive from Armenia's strategic interests.

–World Trade Organization (WTO)

Based on its interest in ensuring sustainable development and economic security, the Republic of Armenia considers it necessary to actively and regularly participate in the processes that take place within the framework of the World Trade Organization. Armenia regards its WTO membership as one of the important tools to promote its trade and direct foreign investments, protect its domestic market, as well as intellectual property, and enroot international standards in the Republic of Armenia's economy.

1.2.3 Relations with Prominent Countries

–Russian Federation

The relations of the Republic of Armenia with the Russian Federation are of a strategic nature. They are distinguished by their important role and significance for Armenia's maximum national security guarantees and are important in both bilateral and multi-lateral formats.

Those multi-dimensional relations are anchored in the shared long-term strategic interests of Armenia and Russia. They encompass many areas of cooperation between the two states and are coordinated by about 160 international, bilateral treaties. It is noteworthy that all components are at high levels. The scope of cooperation is broader in the military, trade and economy, energy, science, education, culture, and information sectors. Recently, the inflow of Russian capital to Armenia has been increasing and expanding.

The military field is of exceptional importance in Armenian-Russian strategic cooperation system. Armenian-Russian military cooperation, especially the presence of Russian troops in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, is regarded as one of the important factors for neutralizing external military threats. From the point of view of Armenia's interests, that cooperation is designed to address the following fundamental issues:

- Ü Meet the military and military-technical needs of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia;
- Ü Maintain a balance of forces in the region.

Armenian-Russian military cooperation develops in three major targeted directions:

- Ü Coalitional alignments;
- Ü a Unified Air Defense System;
- Ü Cooperation within CSTO.

It should be noted that the Unified Anti-Aircraft Defense System of the CIS, along with joint Armenian-Russian duty rotations in Armenia, greatly contributes to the accomplishment of one of the crucial security tasks of the Republic of Armenia. The Armenian-Russian military alliance, in the context of regional security system, such as the Collective Security Treaty Organization, plays an important role in maintaining the military-political equilibrium in the South Caucasus region and, generally, in international relations.

–United States of America (USA)

The enhancement of multi-faceted cooperation with the USA is of special significance for Armenia in terms of establishing a democratic state, fostering sustainable economic development, and ensuring its national security.

The USA plays a leading role both in international and regional processes. Since the independence of Armenia, the USA has been guided by its policy of providing essential government assistance to Armenia. US support to the states in the region, including Armenia, in the areas of democratic and economic reforms, is fundamental to building a civil society and a democratic system.

Along with the joint cooperative programs being realized in the political, economic, social, scientific, educational, cultural, and other sectors, Armenian–American defense relations are expanding significantly. Various programs are being implemented, particularly: Foreign Military Financing, and International Military Education and Training programs, the Joint Contact Group Program (with the US European Command), and the State Partnership Program (with the State of Kansas.)

In terms of military cooperation with the USA, the recommendations which have been developed based on the findings of the Defense Assessment of the Armenian Armed Forces are important for reforming the Armed Forces of Armenia. By contributing to the expanded military capacities of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia, that cooperation plays a key role in maintaining the equilibrium of Armenia's military policy from the perspective of complementary military cooperation. The development of cooperation of the Republic of Armenia within NATO in a bilateral format is primarily built on Armenia's relations with the USA.

1.2.4 Relations with Islamic Countries

In its foreign policy, the Republic of Armenia takes into account the fact that Armenia and the Armenian people, historically and geographically, have had contacts and co-existed with Islamic countries and peoples. Masses of Armenian people who survived the genocide found shelter in a number of Islamic countries. To this day, Armenian communities exist in those countries, and they are given opportunities to preserve their national spiritual and cultural identity. Therefore, for the Republic of Armenia and for the Armenian people, it is important to continue traditional friendly relations with these countries, based on mutual respect.

Within its complementary foreign policy, Armenia also develops friendly and mutually beneficial relations with other prominent countries of the world, in particular with the People's Republic of China and the Republic of India.

2. THE DOMESTIC SECURITY STRATEGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

The sustainable development of the Republic of Armenia requires that the State should implement democratic reforms in all political areas of its activity. The most important prerequisite for such a development is ensuring the internal security by conducting a unified state policy, which is carried out through the development and realization of coordinated strategies by individual governmental agencies according to national security strategy priorities.

The main goals of the domestic security strategy of the Republic of Armenia in various areas are:

- **Defense:** ensuring such defense potential of the state which is necessary for countering any possible aggression, protection of the physical security of the people of the Republic of Armenia, and its sovereignty and independence, and territorial integrity.
- **Political-legal:** ensuring political stability; protection of democratic values and, above all, the human and citizen rights and freedoms; development of civil society; creation of legislation which is oriented towards establishing democracy and ensuring international integration; and ensuring wide public participation in governance affairs.

- **Institutional:** advancement of democratic institutions of power, and mechanisms for efficient public control; elimination of corruption.

- **Socio-economic:** ensuring sustainable economic growth and a consistent improvement of the population's livelihood; strengthening social justice; establishment of social harmony; establishment of an academic and educational system, oriented towards a science-based economy, and in compliance with international standards; ongoing development of spiritual-cultural areas; improvement of the quality of life in order to ensure a positive psychological environment for the individual, also to ensure a secure environment.

- **Information-communications:** To develop and implement unified government policy in the information area targeted at: public awareness of the population and securing the rights and freedoms of the individual; protecting information which constitutes state secrets; modernizing the information infrastructure; and developing information technologies and their widespread use.

In order to achieve these objectives, the Republic of Armenia anticipates the following reforms.

2.1 Legislative Reforms

Legislative reforms, based on principles and norms of international law, are the prerequisites of a prosperous and sustainable civil society and aim to regulate all areas of activities of the state, society and individuals. The Republic of Armenia implements its legislative reforms on the basis of the preservation of sovereignty, independence, and national identity, harmonizing its legislation with the standards of democratic legitimacy, humanism and openness as set forth by international law. This thereby contributes to the sustainable development and security of the country along with its international integration. In this aspect, the process of constitutional reforms has fundamental and crucial significance.

The Republic of Armenia is committed to instituting democratic values by cooperating closely with established democratic countries in the course of implementing its legislative reforms. Presently, Armenia drafts its legislation with the assistance of European structures, such as the European Union, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, and other prominent international institutions in this field. With the goal of harmonizing its legislation with European standards, Armenia has set up and is implementing the National Program for implementation of partnership and cooperation agreement between the European communities and its member states and the Republic of Armenia.

Within the legislative framework, the Republic of Armenia considers also that it is important to reflect in its normative-legal acts its participation in those international initiatives, whose goals are targeted against international terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, dissemination of narcotics, and human trafficking.

2.2. Institutional Reforms

Institutional reforms are aimed at strengthening the democratic state, coordinating the efforts expanded on building state governance agencies and ensuring their transparency, strengthening local self-governance bodies, establishing democratic mechanisms for effective public control, and strengthening anti-corruption measures, especially those against bribery. For this purpose, with the support of the international community, the Republic of Armenia is implementing appropriate long-term state programs, including the Poverty Reduction program, the Millennium Challenge program, and the Anti-Corruption Strategy program.

The priorities of ensuring the national security of the Republic of Armenia include the formation of a civil society, consolidation of the society around the delivery of national political, economic, and social development projects, and the establishment of an effective system of crisis management. The key approach is to ensure the participation of a wide circle of non-governmental organizations and the society in state governance.

As a fundamental task to ensure the maintenance of constitutional order, the rule of law, and the daily operations of the legislative, executive, and judicial powers, the Republic of Armenia emphasizes the importance of strategic reforms in the area of law enforcement. These reforms are targeted at securing the human and citizen constitutional rights, protecting the individual and society from unlawful infringements, and combating violations of law, including actions in the battle against international terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, trafficking in narcotics, and human trafficking. The objective of these reforms is to ensure the harmonious collaboration of law enforcement institutions and civil society in the consistent struggle against such legal infractions.

2.3 Economic Reforms

To ensure its stable economic progress and establish a new economic system, Armenia places a high priority on: the harmonious improvement in the legislative framework and realization mechanisms to increase economic competitiveness; strengthening free market relations and establishing a state system regulating these relations; ensuring macroeconomic and financial stability; introducing effective mechanisms and thereby establishing new financial institutions for development of the financial system; improving the competitive environment in the area of business activities; promoting small and medium businesses; stemming from the interests of ensuring national security, implementing a consistent investment policy; improving the living standards of the population through employment; balanced social and economic development by territory and sector; coordinating infrastructures; within the economic structure, ensuring the priority of science and labor oriented, low-material usage industrial branches and ecologically friendly technologies; reorganizing the science and technology fields as a scientific based and moving force for an innovative economy; ensuring the progressive growth of exports; preventing economic crimes; and undertaking consistent actions against shadow turnover.

The Republic of Armenia also considers sectoral reforms important and gears these reforms towards:

ü increasing the level of energy security for the Republic of Armenia, which implies diversifying energy import options, creating new energy sources, including nuclear, and constructing an export-oriented, sustainable, and reliable energy system;

ü implementing a national financial-credit policy aimed at developing a modern market economy; ensuring the comprehensive, stable, and dynamic development of the financial and banking system; implementing a liberal fiscal and monetary policy; strengthening collaboration and establishing flexible relations with international economic and financial structures; expanding international cooperation and regional economic programs inviting the financial and organizational potential of the Diaspora;

ü ensuring sustainable development of the Republic's transportation system; strengthening cooperation with international organizations in this area in order to integrate Armenia's transportation means with transit freight operations systems and create alternative routes of communication, with the goal of eliminating the transportation blockade;

Ü ensuring restoration, preservation and optimal use of natural resources, including water resources and Lake Sevan's eco-system; maintaining the security of Armenia's biodiversity from genetically modified plants and animals; safe use of atomic energy; complete control and containment of dangerous chemical and radioactive substances and wastes; forecasting and early warning of natural and technogenic disasters and developing a rapid response system to them; establishing for structures detecting and overcoming emergency situations; ensuring hydro-meteorological security; educating the public and increasing public awareness on issues related to environmental protection;

Ü ensuring the biological security of the population and the country's food security, including balanced increase in agricultural and food production, import and export of agricultural products and foodstuff, ensuring international standards for food security, implementation of complex regional programs, particularly, social and economic development of border and highland zones; increase of level of agricultural productivity through introduction of advanced technologies.

Ü long-term advancement of urban development, including establishing harmonious ecosystems and making consistent improvements to the quality of life of the population through urban development; ensuring a proportionally-spread population density; professionally targeted and justified use of natural, historical-cultural, territorial resources, and landscapes; preservation and development of the identity of Armenian national architecture; planned mitigation of seismic risk across the Republic of Armenia, particularly in the city of Yerevan and its suburbs; ensuring buildings and structures are seismically safe and secure; developing and using new methods of seismically safe construction.

2.4 Social Reforms

As a crucial factor of citizens' dedication to state security, the Republic of Armenia considers the social security strategy for the people significant.

In Armenia, social reforms are principally targeted at: establishing a social state; strengthening social justice; establishing public harmony; implementing reforms in human development systems and satisfying the population's social needs; increasingly improving the social welfare of people by creating new jobs and introducing an insurance system; increasing the effectiveness of the pension system; in accordance with international standards, ensuring minimal pension amounts covering living needs; ensuring access to social infrastructure services; improving the state demographic situation and unregulated immigration and

emigration in an environment of low birth rates in order to ensure the sustainable development of the economy and society, replenishing the professional workforce, especially the scientific and scientific-pedagogical potential, and in this respect, ensuring proportionality and quality of graduate and post-graduate specialists in this field.

The Republic of Armenia prioritizes: the implementation of a long-term state policy targeted at the steady development of science, education, and the strengthening of the intellectual potential; rebuilding of the science and education systems, bringing them in line with the requirements for European integration in the fields of science and education; social and economic development of the country's needs; preventing the "brain-drain"; science-based development of the economy; improvement of the educational system to prepare specialists and secure continuity of generations in the scientific and educational fields; raising the role of the Armenian language as the foundation of the linguistic culture of the Armenian people and the official language of the Republic of Armenia; implementing long-term development programs for leading scientific, technical and analytical centers; creating conditions necessary for research in cutting-edge fundamental and applied sciences; proportional development of natural and humanitarian sciences; involvement of national scientific potential to modernize all fields, first of all, in the defense sector; and advancing a reliable system to protect intellectual property.

Important tasks in ensuring the national security of the Republic of Armenia include: spiritual and cultural development; implementation of a state policy on the creation of favorable conditions for preserving, reproducing and developing universal and national values, national traditions, spiritual and cultural heritage; ensuring accessibility to information on cultural values, services and goods; encouraging of the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural efforts of the Armenian Apostolic Church; preventing those phenomena which endanger the spiritual and cultural identity of the Armenian people and their moral values; cooperation with other states in order to preserve Armenian historical, spiritual and cultural values located on their territory, as well as in order to preserve the historical, spiritual, cultural values and national identities of ethnic groups residing in Armenia.

The Republic of Armenia considers the development of an improved Armenian health system to be an important task. The health system should have the capacity to ensure the health security for the population, including preventing the dissemination of medication that has not been approved by the authorities;

preventing illnesses, especially those caused by radiation, highly infectious diseases and epidemics; preventing bio-terrorism and drug addiction; securing the early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of widespread diseases along with opportunities for healthy lifestyles to take root. The health system should have an effective network of sanatoria and resorts, physical training centers, and modern institutions for the protection of motherhood and childhood.

In building its future, the Republic of Armenia attaches special importance to the enrichment of universal human and national value systems and ensuring the continuation of traditions, to raising intelligent patriotic generations imbued with the human and national spirit and possessing high morals, to planting in them the seeds of national self-consciousness and democracy, to ensuring their permanent and high competitiveness in the labor markets, as well as to issues of the formation of a new generation of law-abiding and responsible citizens with a sense of national self-consciousness.

2.5 Reforms in the Information Sphere

The Republic of Armenia considers important the development and implementation of a unified, long-term state policy on sustainable development of the information sector. It envisages:

- Establishing a state body responsible for planning and implementation of information policy;
- Strengthening the role of the state as a full-fledged and competitive participant in information relations, and as a producer and disseminator of information products and services;
- The exercise of constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens in the information sphere through the provision of international accessibility to the country's open information resources, an informed public; and protected information constituting state secrets;
- Integrating the Republic of Armenia into the world information network; ensuring the professional introduction of the truth about the Republic of Armenia and the Armenian people to the international community; and effective countering of hostile disinformation and propaganda;
- Developing, modernizing, and automating the communication system on an ongoing basis; establishing special alternative and reserve infrastructures; upgrading and protecting infrastructures of traditional and internet information; and developing modern information technologies and the domestic information industry, in particular, developing the production of digital, telecommunications and communication means, satisfying the demand for competitive products in the domestic market and

bringing them to the international market, as well as ensuring the legal acquisition, protection and effective use of national and international information resources.

3. STRATEGY OF REFORMS IN THE AREA OF DEFENSE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

The guarantee for the military security of the Republic of Armenia is the existence of effective defense institutions and combat-ready armed forces that are capable of responding to external threats. Their development and improvement, and ability to demonstrate appropriate responses to new challenges and threats are part of ongoing and dynamic processes.

The most efficient means of ensuring military security and strengthening the military efficiency of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia, adequately withstanding new challenges and threats are targeted and effective defense reforms and Armenia's cooperation with international military-political structures and with individual countries.

The development of cooperation implemented within CSTO, along with the strategic alliance with Russia, is intended to establish unified and effective mechanisms for the joint neutralization of threats to CSTO member countries. The best examples of integration in this direction include the joint Armenian-Russian military group and the Joint Air Defense System.

In cooperation with NATO and its Euro-Atlantic partners, Armenia is implementing systematic defense and security sector reforms, which have been jointly agreed to within the frameworks of the Planning and Review Process and Individual Partnership Action Plan. They include defining the roles of defense and security institutions, civic control of the armed forces, defence planning and budgeting, personnel management, border security and improving interoperability of Armenian units earmarked for international peacekeeping operations.

These reforms and cooperation are undertaken for the benefit of Armenia and are not directed against any third country.

4. PAN-ARMENIAN INTEGRATION STRATEGY

The guarantee of the national security of the Republic of Armenia is distinguished by a feature which is typical of few states. It is the existence of the Armenian Diaspora. The Armenian Diaspora surpasses the

population of Armenia in number and is scattered throughout the world, largely as a result of the genocide and cleansing. It is characterized by its high level integration in different states and the considerable role it plays in the state and public affairs of those countries. The largest communities are in the Russian Federation, the USA, France, Iran and some Arab countries. Strengthening Armenia–Diaspora relations is extremely important. Concurrently, the Republic of Armenia always considers the fact that most Diasporan Armenians are citizens of other states.

The Pan-Armenian integration strategy is targeted at preventing the loss of linguistic-cultural identity of the Diaspora, its alienation, as well as ending irregular emigration from Armenia.

Pan-Armenian integration also has a major economic and cultural significance for Armenia, namely because it promotes trade and tourism, and preservation, development and dissemination of national cultural values.

Relations with the Diaspora play a particular role in Armenia’s development because the Diaspora is a unique bridge connecting Armenia to the international community. Armenian organizations functioning in various arenas significantly contribute to the development of bilateral relations of these countries with Armenia; Armenia’s international integration, and a faster pace of strengthening democracy in Armenia.

In the context of strengthening relations and integrating with the Diaspora, the Armenian Apostolic Church, as the national church, has an important mission, with the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin as its center, the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia, and the Hierarchal Sees of the Patriarchates of Jerusalem and Constantinople, Dioceses operating in other countries, as well as the Armenian Catholic and Evangelical church communities.

VII. PRIORITIES OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Guided by its interests of security and sustainable development, strategies for international integration and domestic reforms, the existence of the Armenian people, its historical mission of securing spiritual progress and protecting its national identity in conformity with the standards for human and citizen rights and freedoms, the Republic of Armenia prioritizes its targeted activities in the following directions:

Defense: protect the physical security of the population of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the state from external encroachments; guarantee the sovereignty and independence of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and physical security of its population; strengthen the military capacity of Armenia by modernizing its Armed Forces; develop the civic control system of its Armed Forces; implement efficient and long-term defense programs for the purposes of precluding and neutralizing external threats; undertake consistent measures against the destructive operations of foreign intelligence agencies and special services; participate in efforts to strengthen international peace and security activities, and in the fight against terrorism;

Political-legal: develop cooperation with the European Union within the framework of the European Neighborhood Program, as well as with multilateral cooperation efforts with security systems, i.e., CSTO and NATO, and bilateral cooperation with Russia and the USA; continue diplomatic efforts guaranteeing no new genocides against the people of the Republic of Armenia; build multi-guaranteed and balanced relations with all states and international organizations; conduct a multilateral, complementary policy in its relations with allies and partners; present and defend Armenia's national interests to international organizations engaged in mediating the Karabakh problem; overcome the tendency of unregulated emigration; strengthen and develop Armenia–Diaspora cooperation through dual citizenship and repatriation; co-operate with stakeholder states and international organizations in the fight against international terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and trafficking of narcotics; ensure the social-political stability of society, based on the priority of protecting the rights and freedoms of individuals and citizens; harmonize legislation with democratic standards; strengthen the democratic political legal system; persistently fight against corruption; maintain balanced inter-ethnic relations; ensure equality before the law for all citizens of the Republic of Armenia, including officials, as well as equality of government agencies, political, non-governmental and religious organizations; ensure unified and consistent compliance with the requirements of laws and other legal acts; and ensure stern accountability of persons involved in public service before the state and public;

Institutional: improve the mechanisms of state governance and local self-governance and ensure the transparency of their operations; and ensure wide participation of civil society and the public in the processes of state governance;

Social and economic: succeed in abolishing the transportation blockade against the country; actively participate in regional economic and cultural integration programs; defeat poverty; ensure macroeconomic and financial stability, develop a comprehensive and dynamic financial system; implement an active investment policy in the energy and agricultural sectors and science-intensive industries; encourage the use of Armenia's own energy resources and enhancement of the atomic energy sector; promote increased economic competition targeting scientific-technical development, as well as improving effectiveness in the science and educational systems, leading design and introduction of ecologically friendly, resource-conserving and energy-effective advanced technologies; ensure multi-faceted progress in the cultural sector; radically improve the demographic, health, and environmental situations and urban development environment in the country; establish an effective system to monitor earthquakes and other natural and technogenic emergency situations, overcome their heavy consequences ;

Information: develop a unified state information policy; create a coordinating body for its realization; integrate within the international information network; ensure the professional presentation of reliable information about Armenia to the global community; develop and implement modern mechanisms for information security; establish an effective system to counter disinformation, which is in conflict with Armenia's vital and strategic interests and is aimed at creating negative international opinions about Armenia; in the information sphere, ensure human and citizen rights and freedoms are exercised; and promote the development of modern information technologies in Armenia.

The national security of the Republic of Armenia, first of all, ensures the rights and freedoms in all vital areas of life of the people of Armenia, who are the sole source and bearer of power, and ensures the protection of Armenia's national interests, in accordance with its goals and priorities.