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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

312/038/2012

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) and in response to the Note Ref: PG/MK of the Secretariat dated 30 November 2011 has the honour to convey the information on Armenian National Preventive Mechanism (NPM).

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations at Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) the assurances of its highest consideration.

Attached: 1 page.

*Geneva, 08 February 2012*



SECRETARIAT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON PREVENTION OF TORTURE  
(UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF THE  
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS)  
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## **Reply from the Government of the Republic of Armenia**

### **Subject: Human Rights Defender as an Independent National Preventive Mechanism**

The Human Rights Defender is recognized as an Independent National Preventive Mechanism according to the law of the Republic of Armenia on the Human Rights Defender. Article 6.1 of the Law says, "The Defender is an Independent National Preventive Mechanism provided by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment". The law was amended with the Article 6.1 on 08.04.2008.

The activity of the Human Rights Defender is regulated by the Law which guarantees his/her independence. Procedure for the appointment of the Human Rights defender is determined by the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia according to Article 83.1 "The National Assembly shall elect the Human Rights' Defender for a period of 6 years by 3/5 of the total number of Deputies. Any person held in high esteem by the public and corresponding to the requirements envisaged for a Deputy of the National Assembly may be elected as a Human Rights Defender. The Human Rights' Defender shall be irremovable. The Human Rights' Defender is an independent official who implements the protection of the violated human rights and freedoms by state and local self-government bodies and their officials. The state and local self-government bodies and their officials shall cooperate with the Human Rights' Defender. The Human Rights' Defender shall be endowed with the immunity for the Deputy. Other guarantees of the activities of the Human Rights' Defender shall be established by the law".

According to the Order of the Human Rights Defender of July 11 2011, an Expert Council on prevention of Torture is established as a subsidiary body to the Office of the Human Rights Defender as a National Preventive Mechanism in the field of prevention of torture and other inhuman or degrading treatment. The Council is comprised both of the staff of the Human Rights Defender Office and representatives of various NGOs.

According to the Law on Human Rights Defender "The Defender and His/Her staff shall be financed from the State budget" that will provide necessary means for activity of National Preventive Mechanism. The budget is a part of the State budget, through a separate budget line. All reports of the Human Rights defender are published on His/Her Internet web-site and all yearly reports are submitted to the concerned State bodies for recommendations, as appropriate.