

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Closing Reinforced Plenary Session

As delivered by

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Mr. Chair,

We thank the German Chairmanship for successful conduct of 2016 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. Our thanks also go to the ODIHR and particularly Polish Government for its traditional hospitality.

Being the most important human dimension event of the OSCE, the HDIM brought together representatives of governments of participating States, our Partners for Cooperation, civil society and academia and provided forum for inclusive dialogue. We engaged in open debate on current challenges in the sphere of human rights, our achievements and best practices in upholding OSCE commitments in good faith. We did not shy away to address our own shortcomings and outstanding issues.

The discussions once again clearly established the fact that security and stability in the OSCE area is closely interlinked with upholding of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Participants of the HDIM agreed that gross violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms may further fuel conflicts.

The Delegation of Armenia outlined the urgent need to address gross violation of the human rights of population living in conflict areas, which are deprived of international protection. We highlighted recent cases of torture, mutilation and killing of civilians and militaries in the NK conflict zone. We stressed that OSCE institutions should take up and streamline the topic of protection of rights of persons living in conflict areas in their agenda.

The discussions revealed that there is a vicious cycle of human rights violations when large scale domestic crackdown on fundamental freedoms is reinforced by the atrocities perpetrated within protracted conflicts. Sadly, this vicious cycle of promoting and justifying violence takes its toll on human lives. It also undermines cooperative security in the OSCE area and constitutes a regional threat which we have to address as a result of violent actions of Azerbaijan.

The value of HDIM is dialogue among participating States and civil society. The Delegation of Armenia tried to engage in dialogue with representatives of NGOs, including from Armenia in good faith and in result oriented manner. We again regret that certain participating states restricted participation of the independent civil society, tried to silence dissenting voices even here in the HDIM and yet came here with number of GONGOs. This is disrespectful towards all of us who value the HDIM as one of the most inclusive platform for human rights dialogue in the world. Let's not fake it.

Last, but not least the Delegation of Armenia presented its vision on how to raise the efficiency of the OSCE institutions, including ODIHR, in particular to avoid duplication with other international organizations and effectively utilize its early warning and conflict prevention mandate.

We reiterate our readiness to further constructive dialogue and cooperation with the OSCE institutions and representatives of civil society in order to further improve implementation of OSCE commitments.

Thank You.