

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

WORKING SESSION 5

Ensuring equal enjoyment of rights and equal participation, (continued)

September 13, 2017

As delivered by

Mr. Vahe Gevorgyan, Deputy Head of the Delegation, Permanent Delegation of Armenia to the OSCE

Mr. Moderator,

I have already communicated the views of my delegation on equal participation of individuals and groups earlier today in the previous session.

So I would like to take this opportunity to present a good practice of ensuring equal participation of ethnic minorities in decision making.

Throughout independence ethnic minorities were not represented in the Parliament due to their disperse location and small numbers. In order to give the chance of equal participation, the New Electoral Code of Armenia envisaged allocation of four assigned seats to four most numerous ethnic minorities such as Yazidis, Kurds, Russian and Assyrians. This provision was implemented in the April 6 elections and thus first time ethnic minorities have been fully represented in the Parliament.

As far as the Parliamentary elections are concerned, I would like to stress that we took note of the ODIHR recommendation stating that Armenian authorities should consider measures to enhance access to voting procedures for persons with physical disabilities and reduced mobility.

Thank you.