

Check against delivery



---

*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna*

---

## **S T A T E M E N T**

**by the Permanent Representative of Serbia Ambassador Roksanda Ninčić**  
at the opening plenary session of the 2017 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting  
(11 September, Warsaw)

We express our appreciation to the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office for organizing this year's Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights for its preparation, as well as to our Polish hosts for their warm hospitality.

The work of the OSCE institutions is one of the key elements of the OSCE's human dimension. Their mandates and capacities should be fully utilized, thus contributing to peace and stability. At a time when threats to security in entire OSCE region are present, this becomes even more important.

We would like, therefore, to congratulate Ms. Gisladdottir, as the newly appointed Director of the ODIHR, as well as to the other newly appointed heads of Institutions. You will have Serbia's full support in the implementation of your mandates.

In the times of conflicts and crisis, the fundamental human rights are the most affected. Therefore, we need to reconfirm our dedication to promotion and implementation of human dimension commitments regardless of the challenges.

The crisis and protracted conflicts across the OSCE area are becoming more frequent and complex. For the fourth consecutive year the crisis in and around Ukraine is continuing despite all efforts. The overall security situation across the OSCE region remains fragile due to, *inter alia*, increased levels of intolerance, discrimination, disrespect for the protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms, hate crimes targeting specific groups – migrants, refugees, national and other minorities etc.

The OSCE participating States must do their utmost to find sustainable solutions for the growing challenges, which will be possible only through rebuilding trust and confidence within the OSCE. While the OSCE family is still searching for the best response to those challenges, it is clear that they can be successfully tackled only through our joint and consensual efforts.

Within the human dimension, in previous years Serbia has been dedicated to the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination, protection of rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the rule of law, freedom of religion or belief, rights of refugees and IDPs freedom of expression and freedom of the media, including safety of journalist, as well as gender and youth as cross-cutting issues. We are pleased to see that some of these topics remain very high on the agenda of the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship.

We hope that divisions that prevented us from adopting new deliverables at Ministerial Council Meeting, both in Hamburg and Belgrade, will be overcome at this year's MC in Vienna. Let me assure you that Serbia stands ready to act as a constructive and reliable partner along that way.