



**SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING
ON
THE ROLE OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AGAINST
DISCRIMINATION IN COMBATING RACISM AND
XENOPHOBIA WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON PERSONS
BELONGING TO NATIONAL MINORITIES AND
MIGRANTS**

**29-30 MAY 2008
HOFBURG VIENNA**

To civil society

Please find attached the agenda and general guidelines relating to the upcoming OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on The Role of National Institutions Against Discrimination in Combating Racism and Xenophobia with a Special Focus on Persons Belonging to National Minorities and Migrants to be held at the Hofburg Congress Centre in Vienna on 29-30 May 2008. Additional information relevant to this Meeting can be found on ODIHR at <http://www.osce.org/odihr>.

The Meeting will address the following three subjects:

- The role and mandate of National Institutions against Discrimination in combating racism and xenophobia
- Overcoming challenges in responding to racism and xenophobia with a special focus on persons belonging to national minorities and migrants
- Good practices and effective policy responses in combating racism and xenophobia

The Meeting will also enable participants to highlight best practices for the OSCE participating States.

The conference will gather government officials, OSCE delegations, civil society, regional and international organizations, and is therefore seen as an important forum for discussing cross-cutting issues.

The Meeting will be preceded by a civil society roundtable on 29 May 2008 where civil society will have an opportunity to raise issues, discuss priorities, exchange information and best practices as well as finalize recommendations to be presented at the opening of the Meeting.

Civil society representatives whose activities directly relate to the topic of the Meeting and wish to attend are requested to register by Monday, 19 May 2008. We encourage to register on-line at <http://meetings.odihr.pl> if at all possible. Alternatively, you may return a completed NGO registration form by fax at + 48 22 250 06 03.

Civil society representatives are invited to forward this information to other relevant actors in the given field.

Please note that participants can pick up their passes for the meeting venue in advance on Thursday, 29 May 2008 from 9.00am at the Hofburg Congress Centre in the main entrance hall.

Participants may display information materials on the tables in the lobby of the main meeting room. They may also distribute documents during the Meeting by giving one copy of each document (maximum 3 pages in length) to staff of the Document Distribution Centre. Participants are encouraged to intervene during the Working Sessions while limiting their statements to the specific issues at hand thereby contributing to a genuine discussion.

Unfortunately, the ODIHR is not in a position to provide any financial assistance to participate in the Meeting. For your convenience please find attached a list of hotels in Vienna. Participants are kindly requested to make their own hotel arrangements.

For further information please contact Ms. Anna Sierant at Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl or at tel.: +48 22 520 06 00 (ext. 4121) or Ms. Aleksandra Pietrowska at Aleksandra.Pietrowska@osce.org or at tel.: + 48 22 520 06 00 (ext. 1286).