



Human Dimension Meetings

OSCE consensus decisions on the participation of civil society organizations in Human Dimension Meetings

The important role of civil society in promoting the implementation of human dimension commitments has been regularly highlighted by all participating States in the OSCE consensus decisions. Tasking ODIHR to organize the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) annually in Warsaw, as well as Human Dimension Seminar and Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings, the participating States have stipulated that “all non-governmental organizations having relevant experience in the field of the human dimension will be invited to participate ...” (PC Decision No. 476, 2002).

Excerpts from OSCE decisions relevant to civil society participation in Human Dimension Meetings can be found below:

[The participating States] will, accordingly:

- make open to NGOs all plenary meetings of review conferences, ODIHR seminars, workshops and meetings, the CSO when meeting as the Economic Forum, and human rights implementation meetings, as well as other expert meetings. In addition each meeting may decide to open some other sessions to attendance by NGOs. (Helsinki, 1992);
- facilitate during OSCE meetings informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and of NGOs. (Helsinki, 1992).

The above provisions will not be applied to persons or organizations which resort to the use of violence or publicly condone terrorism or the use of violence. (Helsinki, 1992)

NGOs, specifically those with relevant experience, are particularly encouraged to participate in the discussion of the selected topics and to provide their suggestions and recommendations (PC Decision No. 476, 2002).

All participants will have equal access to the list of speakers in order to provide their contributions to each Working Session (PC Decision No. 476, 2002).