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**395th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 395, Agenda item 4

**DECISION No. 476**  
**MODALITIES FOR OSCE MEETINGS ON**  
**HUMAN DIMENSION ISSUES**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling Decision No. 4 of the Bucharest Ministerial Council (MC(9).DEC/4), which tasked the Permanent Council with further reviewing the modalities of the human dimension meetings by 30 June 2002,

Further recalling the provisions of the Helsinki Document 1992, Chapter I and Chapter VI, paragraph (9),

Decides to adopt the modalities for the OSCE meetings on human dimension issues set out in the annexes to this Decision.

The modalities for the human dimension implementation meetings will, *mutatis mutandis*, be reflected in the human dimension segment of the Review Conference.

The Permanent Council may, in light of the experience gained, decide to make additional adjustments to the arrangements set out in the annexes, with a view to strengthening the effectiveness and attraction of the human dimension meetings further.

## **I. Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings**

1. During each year, the Chairman-in-Office will, as a rule, organize three informal Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings (SHDMs), each lasting one-and-a-half working days, in the framework of the Permanent Council, in order to discuss key substantive concerns raised at the previous Human Dimension Implementation Meeting or Review Conference and to ensure follow-up for them as well as for the OSCE Human Dimension Seminars. They will be organized in three consecutive Working Sessions.
  2. These Meetings will be held in Vienna. With the consent of the host State, they may also be organized elsewhere, provided that their impact would thereby be increased.
  3. The dates for the SHDMs will be presented to the Permanent Council by the Chairman-in-Office as early as possible each year, and no later than 1 February.
  4. The detailed agenda for each meeting will be made available at least 30 days before it takes place, unless otherwise decided by the participating States.
  5. The ODIHR will assist the Chairman-in-Office in preparing the SHDMs. The resources of the Secretariat will be drawn upon for logistical support.
  6. The Partners for Co-operation and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation will be invited to attend SHDMs. They will be invited to contribute to Meetings with respect to their co-operation and links with the OSCE in the relevant field of the human dimension.
  7. International organizations having relevant experience in the field of the human dimension will be invited to participate in the SHDMs.
  8. NGOs will be invited to submit in writing their recommendations and suggestions with regard to the structure and concept of the SHDMs. A prominent NGO representative could address the opening session of the SHDMs.
  9. In order to prepare the SHDMs, the OSCE institutions will provide, well in advance, food-for-thought papers on the topics to be discussed. In accordance with their mandates and depending on the topic, the OSCE field structures will contribute actively to the preparation process.
  10. Delegations are encouraged to circulate written statements in advance in order to stimulate a more lively debate during the working sessions.
  11. The Chairman-in-Office will provide the Permanent Council with a presentation on the proceedings of each SHDM.
  12. The ODIHR will be tasked with presenting a written report, including statements made at the SHDMs, and distributing them prior to the next Human Dimension Implementation Meeting or Review Conference.
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## **II. General issues**

1. By 15 February at the latest, the Chairmanship will distribute an over-all annual calendar of OSCE human dimension events, including the HDIMs, the SHDMs, the Human Dimension Seminar and other relevant events, in order to facilitate planning and participation by the participating States, OSCE institutions and field structures, other international organizations and NGOs. The participating States will make every effort to ensure appropriate participation in OSCE meetings devoted to human dimension issues, including by the NGO community. The topics for the second week of the HDIMs, the SHDMs and the Human Dimension Seminar will be chosen with the aim of ensuring that they complement and reinforce each other and in order to stimulate further progress. Particular attention will be given to providing inputs to the Permanent Council meeting referred to in Annex 1, above, and to the next OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting.
2. The participating States are entitled to exercise their right of reply in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 87 (Chapter 6) of the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations.
3. All non-governmental organizations having relevant experience in the field of the human dimension will be invited to participate, subject to the provisions contained in Chapter IV, paragraph (16), of the Helsinki Document 1992, following registration with the ODIHR.
4. The Partners for Co-operation, the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, international organizations and institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations, are invited to ensure appropriate participation in OSCE meetings devoted to human dimension issues.
5. The moderators of the human dimension meetings are encouraged to adopt a proactive attitude to help ensure that the participants engage in a constructive debate aimed at improving the implementation of OSCE commitments and formulating recommendations, thereby reinforcing the relevance of the human dimension meetings.
6. Further contributions to the Voluntary Fund to Foster the Integration of Recently Admitted Participating States are encouraged in order to promote appropriate participation in OSCE meetings devoted to the human dimension.

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT  
UNDER PARAGRAPH 79 (CHAPTER 6) OF THE FINAL  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS**

By the Delegation of the United States of America:

“The United States is pleased to have been able to join consensus on this decision to adopt the revised modalities for the Human Dimension Implementation Review Meeting (HDIRM). We however, would like to make the following interpretative statement.

First, regarding the language in Annex III, paragraph 5, concerning the role of moderators of human dimension meetings, this language should not be construed as allowing a moderator to prevent any participant from speaking.

Second, regarding the language in Annex I, paragraph 17, concerning the number of specifically selected topics for the second part of the HDIRM this year, we highlight the point that in years after 2002 there is agreement that there will be three specifically selected topics.

We reiterate that real cases and situations can be discussed in every session of the HDIRM. The key goal of the HDIRM is to resolve or ameliorate actual cases and situations.

This must be an integral element of the forward-looking discussions, as well as of the working sessions to review implementation of commitments.

Another overarching goal of the reform process was to link the HDIRM directly with the Permanent Council (PC). We have accomplished this goal. We hope that the Chairman-in-Office will interpret Annex 1, paragraph 11, as organizing a separate PC devoted to the HDIRM two weeks after the meeting to give this the attention it deserves. We believe that this, combined with the reinforced plenary session at the end of the meeting in Warsaw, should ensure that we address the necessary issues and take the required decisions on follow-up.

It is thus essential that we take maximum advantage of the HDIRM's concluding reinforced plenary session. It is also essential that we use the PC effectively, two weeks after the HDIRM to carry forward the work and recommendations coming out of the review meeting.

Finally, it is also extremely important to have non-governmental participation in the human dimension meetings. We believe that these new modalities will attract individual NGOs. We note that Annex III, paragraph 3, invites all non-governmental organizations having relevant experience in the field of the human dimension to participate. This should apply to the Human Dimension Implementation Review Meeting and its supplementary meetings. We look forward to implementing the new modalities in September and encourage the Ambassadors here to attend.

Mr. Chairman, we request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.”