

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

WORKING SESSION 18

Discussion of Human Dimension Activities

As delivered by

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Mr. Moderator,

We thank distinguished representatives of OSCE institutions for outlining their current activities and plans for future.

We would like to stress that the Armenian Government has continuously expressed its political support to the ODIHR, RFOM and HCNM and cooperated with them on implementation of its human dimension commitments. The Armenian authorities have developed direct high level dialogue with the ODIHR and the RFOM, which is another indication of our political will to use these valuable tools. Participation of Armenia in the HDIM at the level of Minister is illustrative in this regard. Owing to strong ownership, openness and constructive attitude of the Government of Armenia towards OSCE institutions, a number of events, training courses, field visits are being organized in Armenia on regular basis, which are of great assistance for Armenia in raising its democratic profile, ensuring human rights and fundamental freedoms for our society and strengthening rule of law.

In exercising their activities the OSCE institutions should develop stronger cooperation with the OSCE field missions, which are invaluable tools on the ground, in particular when it comes to assessment of the progress of participating States in implementation of their OSCE commitments.

We encourage the institutions to be more active in utilization of their early warning mandate and preventive diplomacy. The projects of ODIHR, RFOM and HCNM should be streamlined in a way to promote confidence and trust between participating States and peoples. Another important factor of efficiency of a project is its inclusivity. We regret to note that a significant part of the population in the OSCE area is excluded from the activities of the OSCE institutions, namely people living in conflict zones. Problems of status should not be an obstacle for the institutions to refuse cooperation with the relevant authorities and civil societies in conflict areas. Let's not forget that our institutions are dealing with human rights issues and all people in the OSCE area are entitled to their individual and collective human rights and fundamental freedoms, regardless status of their territory.

We would like to share some other concerns in regard to project work of our institutions.

The primary value and cornerstone of OSCE institutions is their impartiality, non-selectivity and objectivity. We believe that the agenda of their activities should be human rights based and in no way promote conflict interests and perception of one participating state against the other.

Attempts to create artificial balance between participating States, with the aim to appease and engage those, who are not willing to engage is another worrying trend, which affects negatively the credibility of our institutions. Such attempts are even more disturbing when in the name of balancing the equality mark is put between those who comply with the OSCE human dimension commitments and those who openly challenge them. .

We are not going to follow these examples and adopt the same rules of game. But we will not accept abuse of our constructive attitude and attempts to reward certain participating States at the expense of our national interests and OSCE values.

We stand ready to continue cooperation with the OSCE institutions within our policy of further implementing OSCE commitments including strengthening democracy, rule of law and human rights in Armenia.

Thank You.