

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Working session 17 (specifically selected topic): Combating racism, xenophobia, intolerance and discrimination

As delivered by

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Ms. Moderator,

Many thanks to distinguished introducers for interesting presentations.

At the outset, we would like to share some information on our national experience in implementation of the OSCE commitments, including Ljubljana Decision 10/05.

Armenia has continued to actively contribute to international efforts in education and remembrance of genocides. Our historical experience of being situated on the crossroads of different civilizations and cultures and the tragedy of the Armenian Genocide lie behind special responsibility of Armenia and the Armenian people to stand at the forefront of genocide prevention efforts.

On March 23 this year the 37th session of the UN Human Rights Council adopted by consensus Genocide Prevention Resolution initiated by Armenia. This was an important step marking 70th anniversary of adoption of the UN Convention on Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The resolution reaffirms that fight against impunity is a key factor for preventing genocides. It expresses concern over the attempts to deny or approve genocides, stressing that they undermine the fight against impunity, reconciliation of peoples and crime-prevention efforts.

Armenia continued Hundred Lives Initiative and Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity, which draws attention to well-known individuals and organizations from all over the world, who render practical assistance victims of crimes against humanity. In the end of year we will host in Yerevan the Third Global Forum on the Crime of Genocide, which will bring together representatives of governments, international organizations, civil society and academia. The Forum will mark the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide, which is observed every December 9th.

In January this year the Armenian Parliament adopted Statement on recognizing and condemning genocide committed against the Yazidi people by terrorist groups in Iraq in 2014.

Mr. Moderator,

State-led systematic promotion of intolerance, radicalization and xenophobia, especially those aimed at scapegoating certain ethnic and religious groups may lead to violence, conflicts and crimes against humanity. The OSCE as a regional security organization should keep high in its agenda the issue of remembrance and education of genocides. We are not satisfied by the activities of the OSCE institutions in this important field.

I would like to make the following recommendation in this regard.

- OSCE institutions, in particular ODIHR should streamline in its activities genocide remembrance and education.
- ODIHR together with participating States should co-organize thematic events on genocide remembrance and education as part of its TND mandate.

Thank you.