



**Talking points on the role of civil society in the full implementation of human dimension commitments as an essential element of comprehensive security**

HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

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- To support the realization of the Astana vision of building Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community and ensure comprehensive, cross-dimensional approach, due respect should be given to the active civil society involvement in the Helsinki+40 process under the common idea of the full implementation of human dimension commitments as an essential element of comprehensive security. Active engagement of civic actors will facilitate fruitful discussion on future development of the human dimension and provide forum for open debate, encouraging valuable input to be incorporated in the Helsinki+40 process.

- According to the existing perception, the issue pertaining to implementation of the OSCE commitments, particularly those belonging to human dimension, was identified as one of the perspective thematic areas to be included in the Helsinki+40 discussion. In that regard, and having in mind informal nature of the discussion within Informal Helsinki+40 Working Group (IHWG), the unique opportunity could be created to convey a practical civic deliverable through the IHWG to the OSCE participating States and respective decision making bodies.

- Nowadays the majority of existing initiatives on expanding the role of civil society in the OSCE region are dedicated to human dimension as the most sensitive and controversial one on the issue. Among them are the International Civil Initiative for the OSCE, the International Cooperation Platform “Civil Solidarity”, the International Coalition of NGOs on Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship, etc. These informal fora have already proved their usefulness, and could serve as a main source for consolidated efforts of civil society and national human rights institutions to be canalized into strategic discussions and concrete proposals elaborated in the course of the Helsinki+40 process.

- The scope of currently started Track II initiatives might be amended or broadened by providing additional services to the OSCE community. Holding Track II events in extended format will facilitate laying of the groundwork for changing new ideas and approaches to be further implemented in the third basket. All aspects of the comprehensive security idea should be included in the agenda of the so-called Parallel Civil Society Conferences becoming an indispensable “side event” accompanying the OSCE Ministerials and Summits.

- In essence, the OSCE has some way to go and looks set to evolve further on civil society and public sector capacity building in promoting full implementation of the fundamental human rights commitments as a basic element for comprehensive security community foundation. The OSCE Chairmanship, the Secretary General and other OSCE institutions, headed by the ODIHR, with patience and perseverance should take on much of this work.

- In line with such integrated perception, we would propose some few initial thoughts to be considered by:

the active and incoming OSCE Chairmanships:

- to further elaborate on the idea of appointing a special coordinator or establishing a sub-group of nongovernmental experts on human dimension issues within the framework of the Informal Helsinki+40 Working Group;

- in close cooperation with all participating States to dwell on the question how to increase practically the openness of the OSCE decision making and subsidiary bodies (Permanent Council, Human Dimension Committee, etc) for constructive engagement of civil society under the comprehensive security agenda of the Helsinki+40 process as well as on the issues to be discussed during the informal meetings between representatives of participating States and of NGOs.

the OSCE Secretary General:

- to establish at the OSCE Secretariat a sort of informal advisory/liaison body on cooperation with civil society representatives on all aspects of Track II operational issues, including human dimension one, to be beyond the mandate of individual OSCE structures and institutions (likewise the recently created coordination mechanism for OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions);
- to broaden the scope of recently started Track II initiatives to cover sensitive human dimension issues.

the ODIHR:

- to interact closely with the OSCE Chairmanship, Secretary General and participating States on the issues for strengthening the capacity of civil society and their active involvement in the Helsinki+40 process;
- to serve as a temporal focal point for gathering available propositions and suggestions on human dimension issues from civil society and conveying them to the Informal Helsinki+40 Working Group.