



## **Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting**

### **PREVENTION OF TORTURE**

**10-11<sup>th</sup> April 2014  
Hofburg, Vienna**

#### **General Guidelines**

**The modalities of the meeting are set out in accordance with the decision of the Permanent Council (PC.DEC/476, 23 May 2002)**

#### **1. Aim of the Meeting**

The prohibition of torture is absolute and non-derogable and is enshrined in OSCE human dimension commitments, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and a number of regional human rights instruments. All 57 OSCE participating States have committed to prohibit torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and are States Parties to the Convention against Torture (CAT) which specifically aims to eradicate torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in the States Parties.

The last SHDM on the Prevention of Torture took place in 2003. Eleven years down the road, the implementation of States' obligations and commitments under CAT, OPCAT and the OSCE commitments remains a key challenge in the OSCE area. It is time for the OSCE, its institutions and participating States to take stock of the status of progress on the follow-up to the recommendations. The meeting will thus provide a platform to reassess the situation in light of any new challenges and opportunities, share experiences with civil society and other international organizations active in the prevention of torture, and develop strategies and solutions for moving forward with enhanced efficiency.

The meeting will address the topic through the following three sessions:

- Taking stock of developments in the OSCE Region since the 2003 SHDM on the Prevention of Torture;
- National level responses and the role of National Preventive Mechanisms;
- The role of the OSCE in assisting participating States to prevent torture: The way forward.

Recommendations may be addressed to participating States, the OSCE at large, OSCE institutions, including the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, OSCE

field operations, other inter-governmental or non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors in OSCE participating States. Additional information relevant to the SHDM can be found on ODIHR website at <https://www.osce.org/odihr/116404>.

## **2. Participation**

Representatives of OSCE participating States, national prevention mechanisms, OSCE Institutions, and OSCE field operations, representatives of inter-governmental organizations, representatives of non-governmental organizations, and other civil society actors will participate in the SHDM. The Partners for Co-operation are invited to attend and contribute with respect to their co-operation and links with the OSCE in the field.

## **3. Guidelines for the Debates**

The intention is to develop a free-flowing discussion based on the keynote speech, panel discussions, background information and written statements circulated in advance or during the SHDM. To this end, formal interventions in the form of prepared statements are not envisaged in the course of the SHDM and are discouraged. Prepared statements, background documentation, comments or written materials may be submitted in advance for circulation by the Documents Distribution Centre and hence can feed the discussion.

## **4. Organization**

On-line registration for all participants is available at <http://meetings.odihr.pl>. Participants are advised to register by **Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2014**. Registered participants will be able to collect their badges as of Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> April 2014 from 09:00 in the main entrance hall of the Hofburg Congress Centre. The registration will also be available online after the deadline and during the Meeting on the spot.

In case of any questions, please contact:

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*Organizational matters:* Ms. Kamila Czerwinska at [Kamila.Czerwinska@odihr.pl](mailto:Kamila.Czerwinska@odihr.pl) or +48 22 5200 657

*Registration of participants:* Ms. Anna Sierant at [Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl](mailto:Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl) or +48 22 5200 627

## **5. Other**

Side events may be held over the course of two days during the SHDM. Additional information on the content and objectives of any side event, as well as timing and duration will be available on the SHDM website.