



*Стална мисија Босне и Херцеговине при ОЕБС, УН и другим међународним орг. у Бечу
Stalna misija Bosne i Hercegovine pri OSCE, UN i drugim međunarodnim org. u Beču*

*Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the OSCE, United Nations Office and other
International Organizations in Vienna*

OSCE/ODIHR Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2019

16. September 2019

Statement by H.E. Siniša Bencun at the Opening Session

Madam Chair,

I am honoured today to speak on behalf of BiH during the opening of the 2019 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. Hats off to the Slovak Chairmanship for dedicated work on building consensus for the HDIM agenda this year, as well as to the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights for preparation of this meeting. We see it as the best platform for OSCE participating States, Partners for Co-operation, OSCE executive structures, international organizations and civil society to discuss and follow up on OSCE human dimension commitments.

We highly value the work of three OSCE autonomous institutions in assisting all participating States to implement their OSCE commitments. Their engagement and visible change is measurable indicator on the ground in number of Participating States, including Bosnia and Herzegovina. In upcoming days we will be able to openly discuss how to push the changes from slow motion to fast forward mode, how to address the challenges and transform them to the opportunities. And number of challenges is increasing. Freedom of media, free and fair elections, women's rights and gender equality, as well as number of other commitments needs to be occasionally contested against common indicators, in order to keep us all accountable regarding already accepted OSCE human dimension commitments. We welcome this year concept of HDIM to be focused on issues like safety of journalists, hate crime and Roma and Sinti.

Madam Chair,

Contrary to continued shrinking space for civil society to freely operate and fulfil its corrective role in each society, forums like this have to enable everyone to speak loud. As we could hear already today, human rights cannot be taken as granted. Results made in past decades and reached benchmarks need to be followed, where any kind of backlashes is not acceptable. Key values of each democratic society, like basic human rights, rule of law, political stability and economic development has to be reference point of any action to be taken in future.

In this context, BiH remains dedicated to implementation of all commitments, although faced with serious issues and blockages of implementation of election results 11 months after elections, with unreasonable conditioning from some political actors.

In the end, I wish us all substantial and fruitful discussions in next few days.

Thank you.