



**SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING
ON
PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS:
RESPONSIBILITIES AND EFFECTIVE REMEDIES**

**12 - 13 July 2007
HOFBURG, VIENNA**

General Guidelines

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

1. Aim of the Meeting

This SHDM will examine how participating States address violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms that occur within their jurisdiction by considering specifically the role played by three vital actors in this regard: national courts, civil society and national human rights institutions. This Meeting will provide an opportunity to identify gaps in national systems for protecting human rights, and to examine what role these three different actors can play in identifying and addressing such gaps effectively. It will seek to identify ways in which their independence and capacity can be strengthened and enhanced.

The meeting will focus on the following three areas:

- The role of national courts in promoting and protecting human rights
- The role of human rights defenders in addressing human rights violations
- The role of independent national human rights institutions in promoting and protecting human rights

Recommendations may be addressed to the participating States, the OSCE as a whole, OSCE institutions including the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, as well as the OSCE field operations, or other inter-governmental or non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors and National Human Rights Institutions in OSCE participating States.

2. Languages

Translation will be provided in the six working languages of the OSCE.

3. Participation

Representatives of the OSCE participating States, OSCE Institutions, and OSCE field operations, representatives of international governmental organizations, representatives of National Human Rights Institutions, non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors will participate in the Meeting

The Partners for Co-operation and the Mediterranean partners for co-operation are invited to attend and contribute with respect to their co-operation and links with the OSCE in the field.

4. Guidelines for the Debates

The intention is to develop a free-flowing discussion based on the keynote speech, introductory remarks, background information and written statements circulated in advance or during the Meeting. **To this end, formal interventions in the form of prepared statements are not envisaged in the course of the Meeting and are discouraged.**

Prepared statements, background documentation, comments or written materials may be submitted preferably by e-mail (elke.lidarik@osce.org) in advance for circulation by the Documents Distribution Centre.

5. Organization

On-line registration for all participants is available at <http://meetings.odihr.pl>. Participants are requested to register on-line by Wednesday, 27 June 2007. In case of any questions, please contact Ms. Anna Sierant at Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl or at tel.: +48 22 520 06 00 (ext. 4121).

In addition, advance registration will be available on Thursday, 12 July 2007, from 10:00 till 15:00 in the Hofburg Congress Centre, Segmentgalerie. Registration during the Meeting will be available at the same place.

6. Other

Side Events may be held in the course of the two days. Additional information on the content and objectives of any side event, as well as timing and duration will be made available shortly on the website of the Meeting.