

**395th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 395, Agenda item 4

**DECISION No. 476  
MODALITIES FOR OSCE MEETINGS ON  
HUMAN DIMENSION ISSUES**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling Decision No. 4 of the Bucharest Ministerial Council (MC(9).DEC/4), which tasked the Permanent Council with further reviewing the modalities of the human dimension meetings by 30 June 2002,

Further recalling the provisions of the Helsinki Document 1992, Chapter I and Chapter VI, paragraph (9),

Decides to adopt the modalities for the OSCE meetings on human dimension issues set out in the annexes to this Decision.

The modalities for the human dimension implementation meetings will, *mutatis mutandis*, be reflected in the human dimension segment of the Review Conference.

The Permanent Council may, in light of the experience gained, decide to make additional adjustments to the arrangements set out in the annexes, with a view to strengthening the effectiveness and attraction of the human dimension meetings further.

## **MODALITIES FOR OSCE MEETINGS ON HUMAN DIMENSION ISSUES.**

### **I. Human Dimension Implementation Meetings**

The following modalities amend and complement the provisions of Chapter VI, paragraph (9), of the Helsinki Document 1992.

1. During each year in which a Review Conference does not take place, the ODIHR will organize a Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) of all the participating States, at its seat, to discuss implementation of OSCE human dimension commitments. The HDIM will last 10 working days, unless otherwise decided by the participating States. The HDIM will be concluded by a Reinforced Plenary Session, in accordance with paragraph 10, below.
2. The participating States will endeavour to be represented at the Human Dimension Implementation Meetings at an appropriately high level, both from their OSCE delegations/missions and by those responsible in their Foreign Ministries for their policies regarding human dimension issues. The High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), the Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM) and the Director of the ODIHR, as well as their representatives, will also participate. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will be invited to participate. The ODIHR will be responsible for the distribution of written contributions and information material made available before the HDIM, and will endeavour to circulate such contributions and material well in advance for consideration by the participants.
3. The Human Dimension Implementation Meetings will consist of two parts. Each HDIM will start with an opening Plenary Session. The opening Plenary Session will, as a rule, be addressed by the Chairman-in-Office, a high representative of the host country, the Director of the ODIHR, the HCNM and the RFOM. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will be invited to address this Plenary Session. A prominent international personality in the field of the human dimension may also be invited to address the opening Plenary Session.
4. The opening Plenary Session will be followed by eight Working Sessions to review the implementation of commitments. An experienced and particularly qualified moderator will be appointed to chair Working Sessions. Rapporteurs will also be appointed for the Working Sessions. The Working Sessions will be thematically organized and will together cover the full range of OSCE commitments in the human dimension. This will be reflected in the agreed agenda. Unless otherwise decided by the Permanent Council, the Working Sessions will be devoted to the following themes: Democratic Institutions; Rule of Law I; Rule of Law II; Tolerance and Non-Discrimination I; Tolerance and Non-Discrimination II; Fundamental Freedoms I; Fundamental Freedoms II; Humanitarian Issues and Other

Commitments. (The HCNM or a senior representative of the HCNM will speak under Working Session Tolerance and Non-Discrimination I. The RFOM or a senior representative of the RFOM will speak under Working Session Fundamental Freedoms I.)

5. Where appropriate, Working Sessions may be opened with an overview presented by an expert from within the OSCE. The participating States, international organizations and NGOs are encouraged to make recommendations during the Working Sessions. The participants are requested to circulate their recommendations in writing immediately to ensure an accurate record of the HDIM and to facilitate follow-up. Written recommendations will be compiled, collated and circulated to the participants by the ODIHR well in advance of the Reinforced Plenary Session at the end of the second part of the HDIM. The participating States are also encouraged to circulate written statements in advance in order to stimulate a more lively debate during the Working Sessions.

6. The first part of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting will be concluded by a Plenary Session chaired by the Director of the ODIHR. This Plenary Session will be devoted to the presentation of the outcome of the Working Sessions and to a preliminary discussion of the recommendations made during these sessions in order to prepare for the Reinforced Plenary Session, which will take place in accordance with paragraph 1, above, and paragraph 10, below.

7. All participants will have equal access to the list of speakers in order to provide their contributions to each Working Session. Interventions during Working Sessions should not exceed seven minutes. Interventions during the concluding Plenary Session should not exceed five minutes. As a means of facilitating dialogue, delegations intending to raise an issue related to a specific country are encouraged to notify that country in advance. The speakers' list will be opened one hour prior to the opening of each session, with a view to ensuring equal access to the speakers' list. When appropriate, moderators may call on speakers out of order to facilitate a genuine discussion.

8. The second part of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting will be devoted to forward-looking discussions with a view to fostering implementation of, as well as to refining and - if necessary including in order to meet new risks and challenges - further developing OSCE commitments. This part will be divided into eight Working Sessions. The first two Working Sessions, each with a duration of half a working day, will be devoted to a discussion of human dimension activities, with special emphasis on project work. This discussion will be opened by a senior representative of the ODIHR, who will present key future projects and priorities. Senior representatives of other OSCE institutions and field operations will make similar presentations. International organizations and NGOs are invited to comment on the OSCE presentations and to present their own project priorities. The participants will be given the opportunity to direct questions or comments to the speakers and to present their views on OSCE priorities and project work. With the exception of the introduction presented by the ODIHR, contributions at these sessions should not exceed seven minutes. In summing up the discussion, the moderator of these Working Sessions will strive to identify trends in the discussion and priorities for the future.

9. The following six Working Sessions will be devoted to discussion of, as a rule, three specifically selected topics. These topics will be selected and prepared in advance by the

ODIHR, as described in paragraph 12, below. Unless otherwise decided by the Permanent Council, two Working Sessions, each with a duration of half a working day, will be devoted to each topic. The discussion of each of these topics will be opened by a particularly qualified person who has been closely involved in the preparation of the HDIM concerning the relevant topic. The discussion will be forward-looking and aimed at concrete results. Particular attention should be paid to providing contributions to the preparation of the next OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting. Where relevant, presentation and discussion of concrete projects are also encouraged. For each topic, recommendations will be made with regard to the substance as well as to further follow-up. A moderator with particularly relevant knowledge will be appointed to chair the discussion of each topic. The moderator may propose to conduct parts of the discussion in an informal manner in order to stimulate more open deliberations. NGOs, specifically those with relevant experience, are particularly encouraged to participate in the discussion of the selected topics and to provide their suggestions and recommendations. The moderator of each topic will sum up the discussion and seek common understanding concerning further work required, in particular with a view to preparations for the next OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting.

10. The Human Dimension Implementation Meeting will be concluded by a Plenary Session reinforced by the participation of Human Rights Directors or similar senior officials responsible for human dimension matters in the Foreign Ministries of participating States, as well as OSCE Ambassadors. Heads of OSCE institutions will also participate and present their priorities for the future as well as their preliminary assessment of recommendations made during the HDIM. The Reinforced Plenary Session will receive reports from the work of the HDIM and review results and recommendations from the first and the second week. It will seek to provide direction with regard to follow-up of recommendations presented at the HDIM and with regard to the preparations for the next OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting.

11. The Chairmanship will organize a discussion in the Permanent Council within two weeks after the HDIM in order to discuss further the follow-up to the HDIM. The Director of the ODIHR will present a report from the HDIM. This Permanent Council will provide further direction required with regard to the follow-up to the results of the HDIM and to the recommendations made, in particular with a view to the preparations for the next OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting. It will also provide topics for the next three Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings (SHDMs), to be decided by 1 February. To assist the Permanent Council in its deliberations, the OSCE institutions and field operations will analyse the recommendations of the HDIM relevant to their activities and will present their views in writing prior to the above-mentioned Permanent Council meeting.

12. In January, the Director of the ODIHR will present proposals to the Permanent Council for the specific topics to be prepared for discussions during Working Sessions III - VIII of the second part of the HDIM. These proposals will take into account the results of the previous OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting and of the meeting of the Permanent Council referred to in paragraph 11, above. They will be presented following consultations with the Chairmanship and, as appropriate, with Heads of OSCE institutions. The Permanent Council will decide on the topics by 1 February. By the same date, it will also decide on the date of the HDIM. The Chairmanship will then task the Director of the ODIHR and Heads of other OSCE institutions, as appropriate, with carrying out preparations required to facilitate a result-oriented discussion of these topics at the HDIM. Such preparations may,

*inter alia*, include the use of informal open-ended working groups and/or established OSCE human dimension events, including the SHDMs.

13. The agenda for the entire Human Dimension Implementation Meeting will be approved by the Permanent Council at the latest four months prior to the Meeting. An annotated agenda, including side events, will be prepared by the Chairmanship, in consultation with the ODIHR, the HCNM and the RFOM. This annotated agenda for the Meeting will be distributed at the latest one month prior to it.

14. The Human Dimension Implementation Meeting will be scheduled in such a way as to avoid competition with similar meetings of other international fora and to attract higher-level participation, and to allow time for recommendations to be followed up, discussed and reflected at the next OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting.

15. The Chairmanship will ensure that other regular meetings, with the exception of matters requiring urgent attention, will be suspended for the duration of the HDIM.

16. The remaining provisions of Chapter VI of the Helsinki Document 1992 will continue to apply in their entirety.

17. For the purpose of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in 2002 only, the following specific rules and modalities will apply: The six working sessions stipulated in paragraph 9 will be reduced to four working sessions. Consequently, the discussions during these working sessions will be devoted to two specifically selected topics, with two Working Sessions for each topic. These topics will be selected and decided upon no later than 23 May 2002. This decision and the subsequent preparations will take place in accordance with the procedures described in paragraph 12, above. The entire agenda for the HDIM in 2002 will be approved no later than 6 June 2002.

## **II. Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings**

1. During each year, the Chairman-in-Office will, as a rule, organize three informal Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings (SHDMs), each lasting one-and-a-half working days, in the framework of the Permanent Council, in order to discuss key substantive concerns raised at the previous Human Dimension Implementation Meeting or Review Conference and to ensure follow-up for them as well as for the OSCE Human Dimension Seminars. They will be organized in three consecutive Working Sessions.
2. These Meetings will be held in Vienna. With the consent of the host State, they may also be organized elsewhere, provided that their impact would thereby be increased.
3. The dates for the SHDMs will be presented to the Permanent Council by the Chairman-in-Office as early as possible each year, and no later than 1 February.
4. The detailed agenda for each meeting will be made available at least 30 days before it takes place, unless otherwise decided by the participating States.
5. The ODIHR will assist the Chairman-in-Office in preparing the SHDMs. The resources of the Secretariat will be drawn upon for logistical support.
6. The Partners for Co-operation and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation will be invited to attend SHDMs. They will be invited to contribute to Meetings with respect to their co-operation and links with the OSCE in the relevant field of the human dimension.
7. International organizations having relevant experience in the field of the human dimension will be invited to participate in the SHDMs.
8. NGOs will be invited to submit in writing their recommendations and suggestions with regard to the structure and concept of the SHDMs. A prominent NGO representative could address the opening session of the SHDMs.
9. In order to prepare the SHDMs, the OSCE institutions will provide, well in advance, food-for-thought papers on the topics to be discussed. In accordance with their mandates and depending on the topic, the OSCE field structures will contribute actively to the preparation process.
10. Delegations are encouraged to circulate written statements in advance in order to stimulate a more lively debate during the working sessions.
11. The Chairman-in-Office will provide the Permanent Council with a presentation on the proceedings of each SHDM.

12. The ODIHR will be tasked with presenting a written report, including statements made at the SHDMs, and distributing them prior to the next Human Dimension Implementation Meeting or Review Conference.

### **III. General issues**

1. By 15 February at the latest, the Chairmanship will distribute an over-all annual calendar of OSCE human dimension events, including the HDIMs, the SHDMs, the Human Dimension Seminar and other relevant events, in order to facilitate planning and participation by the participating States, OSCE institutions and field structures, other international organizations and NGOs. The participating States will make every effort to ensure appropriate participation in OSCE meetings devoted to human dimension issues, including by the NGO community. The topics for the second week of the HDIMs, the SHDMs and the Human Dimension Seminar will be chosen with the aim of ensuring that they complement and reinforce each other and in order to stimulate further progress. Particular attention will be given to providing inputs to the Permanent Council meeting referred to in Annex 1, above, and to the next OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting.
2. The participating States are entitled to exercise their right of reply in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 87 (Chapter 6) of the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations.
3. All non-governmental organizations having relevant experience in the field of the human dimension will be invited to participate, subject to the provisions contained in Chapter IV, paragraph (16), of the Helsinki Document 1992, following registration with the ODIHR.
4. The Partners for Co-operation, the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, international organizations and institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations, are invited to ensure appropriate participation in OSCE meetings devoted to human dimension issues.
5. The moderators of the human dimension meetings are encouraged to adopt a proactive attitude to help ensure that the participants engage in a constructive debate aimed at improving the implementation of OSCE commitments and formulating recommendations, thereby reinforcing the relevance of the human dimension meetings.
6. Further contributions to the Voluntary Fund to Foster the Integration of Recently Admitted Participating States are encouraged in order to promote appropriate participation in OSCE meetings devoted to the human dimension.

PC.DEC/476  
23 May 2002  
Attachment

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT  
UNDER PARAGRAPH 79 (CHAPTER 6) OF THE FINAL  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS**

By the Delegation of the United States of America:

“The United States is pleased to have been able to join consensus on this decision to adopt the revised modalities for the Human Dimension Implementation Review Meeting (HDIRM). We however, would like to make the following interpretative statement.

First, regarding the language in Annex III, paragraph 5, concerning the role of moderators of human dimension meetings, this language should not be construed as allowing a moderator to prevent any participant from speaking.

Second, regarding the language in Annex I, paragraph 17, concerning the number of specifically selected topics for the second part of the HDIRM this year, we highlight the point that in years after 2002 there is agreement that there will be three specifically selected topics.

We reiterate that real cases and situations can be discussed in every session of the HDIRM. The key goal of the HDIRM is to resolve or ameliorate actual cases and situations.

This must be an integral element of the forward-looking discussions, as well as of the working sessions to review implementation of commitments.

Another overarching goal of the reform process was to link the HDIRM directly with the Permanent Council (PC). We have accomplished this goal. We hope that the Chairman-in-Office will interpret Annex 1, paragraph 11, as organizing a separate PC devoted to the HDIRM two weeks after the meeting to give this the attention it deserves. We believe that this, combined with the reinforced plenary session at the end of the meeting in Warsaw, should ensure that we address the necessary issues and take the required decisions on follow-up.

It is thus essential that we take maximum advantage of the HDIRM's concluding reinforced plenary session. It is also essential that we use the PC effectively, two weeks after the HDIRM to carry forward the work and recommendations coming out of the review meeting.

Finally, it is also extremely important to have non-governmental participation in the human dimension meetings. We believe that these new modalities will attract individual NGOs. We note that Annex III, paragraph 3, invites all non-governmental organizations having relevant experience in the field of the human dimension to participate. This should apply to the Human Dimension Implementation Review Meeting and its supplementary

meetings. We look forward to implementing the new modalities in September and encourage the Ambassadors here to attend.

Mr. Chairman, we request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.”