



Govern d'Andorra
Missió Permanent d'Andorra a l'OSCE
i als altres organismes internacionals amb seu a Viena

Statement by Andorra
Opening Session
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I would like to join previous speakers in thanking ODIHR and the Slovak Chairmanship for organizing this year's HDIM and the Polish Government for the continuous hospitality.

The HDIM confirms the importance of multilateralism in the promotion of human rights, which is taking inclusive actions that have a direct and positive impact in the life of our citizens. The meeting offers a unique platform for a dialogue among NGOs and Governments to review the implementation of the OSCE commitments in the human dimension. In this framework, I want to underline the relevance of the participation of civil society organisations in the OSCE events.

The protection and the promotion of human rights is a priority for Andorra at national and international level, in particular at the United Nations, OSCE and Council of Europe.

Andorra attaches great importance to education on human rights and democratic citizenship. A quality and inclusive education is a driver to promote tolerance, multiculturalism and non-discrimination and it is essential to promote gender equality at all levels. It ensures the equal access to opportunities and it is a key factor in creating inclusive and safer societies that allow an active participation and integration of all citizens in the political and public sphere.

Mr. Chairman,

Respect of the rule of law and human rights are embedded in the 2030 Agenda for the sustainable development. Without respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and rule of law cannot be consolidated and no sustainable development can be achieved.

Andorra is fully committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. To this end, Andorra presented in July 2018 its first voluntary national review at the High-level political forum of the United Nations and the Government has recently approved the National Strategic Plan of action to implement the 2030 Agenda that engage all stakeholders Government, private sector, civil society and academic sector in order to share experiences and to coordinate the actions and programmes that will be put

in place in order to implement the 2030 Agenda.

In this context, I want to highlight that the Government of Andorra strongly advocates for policies based on democratic participation as the most effective way to create the improvements that are in the interest and to the benefit of our citizens. In that sense, the newly elected Head of Government has created a new Secretariat of State for Citizens participation and equality to promote public participation and to implement the recent Law on Equality and Non-Discrimination adopted last February.

To conclude, allow me to praise ODIHR activities in the field of election observation and thank the Institution for the deployment last February of a Needs Assessment Mission to Andorra in view of the parliamentary elections that took place last April 7. We value the recommendations made.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.