

Promotion of Gender Balance and Participation of Women in Political and Public Life 6-7 May, 2010 Hofburg, Vienna

AGENDA

Day 1	6 May, 2010
15:00 – 16:00	OPENING SESION
16:00-18:00	Session I: Promoting gender equality in the OSCE region – Progress achieved and challenges ahead
Day 2	7 May, 2010
10:00 – 12:00	Session II: Empowering women as political party members and as elected officials
12:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-16:00	Session III: Ensuring gender balance and women's effective participation in public life
16:00 – 16:30	Break
16:30 – 17:30	CLOSING SESSION



Promotion of Gender Balance and Participation of Women in Political and Public Life 6-7 May 2010 Hofburg, Vienna

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Background

OSCE commitments related to gender equality and women's participation in political and public life have evolved greatly in the 35 years since the adoption of the Helsinki Final Act, when participating States committed themselves to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to sex. As early as in 1991, participating States gathered at the Moscow Meeting on the Human Dimension underscored that "full and true equality between men and women is a fundamental aspect of a just and democratic society based on the rule of law" and affirmed their goal of not only achieving *de jure* but also *de facto* equality. Through another landmark document, the Charter for European Security, adopted at the Istanbul Summit of 1999, participating States reaffirmed the essential role of gender equality for achieving a more peaceful, prosperous and democratic OSCE region, and underlined the need to pursue gender equality objectives both at the level of participating States and within the Organization.²

The 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality further synthesized and consolidated the existing commitments and, among other areas of work, prioritised the objective of ensuring equal opportunity for participation of women in political and public life. In parallel, key international legal instruments and policy documents on non-discrimination based on sex, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights the United Nations Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Beijing Platform for Action, have been adopted³.

While the importance of achievements should not be underestimated, concrete advances in the status of women throughout the OSCE region have been limited. The current OSCEwide rate of women' representation in parliaments stands at less than 22 percent, while it

¹ Paragraph 40, Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE, Moscow, 1991. The full text of the Moscow Document of the CSCE can be viewed at the following address http://www.osce.org/documents/odihr/1991/10/13995 en.pdf

² Paragraph 23, Charter of the European Security, Istanbul Summit, 1999. The full text of the Moscow Document of the CSCE can be viewed at the following address http://www.osce.org/documents/mcs/1999/11/4050 en.pdf

³ In 1990, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, a subsidiary body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, adopted the recommendation to member states to achieve the target of 30 % women in leadership positions in governments, political parties, trade unions, professional and other representative groups by 1995.

was just over 15 percent in year 2000. Furthermore, the increase in average figures over the last decade is largely due to significant gains in a limited number of participating States. Progress remains uneven across the region.

The Athens Ministerial Conference, held in December 2009, adopted the Decision on Women's Participation in Political and Public Life, which provides renewed momentum to address these challenges and specific directions for future work in this field. This new commitment underlines the need to address the continued under-representation of women in decision-making structures across the OSCE region and calls on participating States to undertake specific measures to promote gender balance in all legislative, judicial and executive bodies, especially emphasizing the need for gender balance at the decision-making levels.

Focusing on implementation, this Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting will assess achievements, gaps and challenges, while outlining actions for moving forward. Having adopted the right legislation is only one element of what should be a broader strategy encompassing various types of measures. The objective of the meeting is to discuss the role of capacity-building measures and gender-sensitive institutional policies for increasing women's participation in political and public life.

Day 1 6 May 2010

15:00 – 16:00 **OPENING SESSION**

16:00 – 18:00 Session 1: Promoting gender equality in the OSCE region – progress achieved and challenges ahead

OSCE participating States have committed themselves to giving effect to the principles of gender equality and non-discrimination as enshrined in their constitutions and legislation. In order to promote gender-balance and to increase participation of women in political and public life, additional measures need to be taken to identify and eliminate underlying causes of women's under-representation. Specifically, Athens MC Decision on Women's Participation in Political and Public Life calls on participating States to "consider possible legislative measures, which would facilitate a more balanced participation of women and men in political and public life and especially in decision-making". Furthermore, as a critical step for ensuring gender balance in traditionally male-dominated professional fields, the Decision calls on participating States "to create equal opportunities within the security services, including the armed forces, where relevant, to allow for balanced recruitment, retention and promotion of men and women". 5

This first session will offer the opportunity for a broad exchange of views on legal and policy instruments and approaches adopted by participating States to foster balanced participation of women and men in political and public life. The discussion will focus on a range of critical issues such as development of effective gender equality and anti-discrimination laws and building national mechanisms for the advancement of women as well as the adoption and implementation of specific measures to achieve the goal of gender

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⁴ Paragraph 2, Ministerial Council Decision 7/09, Athens Ministerial Council Meeting, 2 December 2009. The full text of the Decision can be viewed at the following address: http://www.osce.org/documents/cio/2009/12/41865 en.pdf

⁵ Ibid, para. 4.

balance in all legislative, judicial and executive bodies, including security services, such as police services.

The following issues could be considered during the discussion:

- What lessons learnt and good practice can be drawn from the implementation of gender equality and anti-discrimination laws and policy instruments?
- What measures have participating States taken to establish effective national mechanisms for the advancement of women and to provide these bodies with adequate financial and human resources?
- What examples of good practice can be identified and promoted in terms of providing real opportunities for women to influence the agendas, institutions and processes of decision-making (moving beyond simply increasing the number of women in different positions)?
- What examples of good practice can be identified and promoted for creating equal opportunities within the security services, including in armed forces (allowing for balanced recruitment, retention and promotion of men and women)?
- How are participating States measuring national-level progress in promoting genderequality in political and public life?

Day 2 7 May 2010

10:00 – 12:00 Session II: Empowering women as political party members and as elected officials

Political parties can be seen as gatekeepers of women's political participation. According to internationally adopted commitments and standards, the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of gender applies to political parties both in terms of the membership of executive and decision-making bodies and as candidates on the ballot. In addition, internal party pluralism and transparency in decision-making are key factors which influence women's opportunities to gain nomination and support from their parties for elected offices. A wide range of legislative and voluntary measures have been put in place in many OSCE participating States, such as financial assistance and training for women candidates within political parties, gender-sensitive candidate selection and nomination procedures and setting gender-based targets and quotas for the composition of elected and appointed public bodies.

This session will discuss general trends and challenges in the implementation of measures to promote women's participation in political and public life and examples of good practice at national and local levels.

The following issues could be considered during the discussion:

- Which barriers stand in the way of women taking part in the political process? In particular, are there any legal obstacles to women's equal participation as voters, candidates, or elected leaders?

- If opportunities are equal, are women taking advantage of them, and if not, why not? For example, are rates of illiteracy, unemployment, or poverty higher among women? Are there other political or societal barriers to women's participation?
- What methods can be used to ensure that women are given equal opportunities to compete in elections? What steps should be taken to ensure gender-sensitivity in candidate selection and nomination processes?
- What measures can political parties use to ease burdens of the high costs of campaign financing for women candidates?
- What campaign and outreach techniques can political parties take to promote the electoral prospects of women as candidates?
- What steps should be taken by parties, non-partisan civil society organizations and governmental entities to encourage the greatest possible participation of women as voters? How can parties increase the role of women as political party functionaries, campaign workers as well as candidates?
- What are the lessons learnt in the use of gender-based quotas for candidate lists? What are the successful examples of the use of gender-based quotas resulting in an increased number of women in decision-making bodies? How can results achieved through gender-based quotas be made sustainable?
- What steps can parties take to promote internal democracy and transparency in decision-making?
- What are the effective forms of networking and coalition building for promoting the increased participation and representation of women in political life?
- What are the lessons learnt from the work of women's caucuses in parliaments, institutional and/or informal meetings between MPs, the civil sector and government institutions?

12:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 Session III: Ensuring gender balance and women's effective participation in public life

Women's participation in public life across the OSCE region faces several challenges, including gender-based stereotypes regarding the role of women in society, and the so-called 'glass ceiling' - low numbers of women in leadership positions in the public and private sectors, over-concentration of women in certain professional fields, provision of unequal pay for equal work, and challenges in reconciling professional and private/family lives. In addition, women of immigrant and minority communities often face multiple forms of discrimination in various fields of public life.

This session will discuss recurrent challenges for ensuring gender balance at all levels of public life, and will identify areas where further improvements are necessary in order to create an enabling environment for women to enter and pursue effective careers in the public sphere. Particular issues to be discussed include good practices and effective solutions to gender-based discrimination in the employment sphere, combating gender-based stereotypes in education and the media, and efforts to promote a better reconciliation of professional and private/family responsibilities by women and men.

The following issues could be considered during the session:

- What are the good practices in eliminating gender-based stereotypes and public perceptions which prevent women from reaching their full potential in public life?
- What are the effective strategies for promoting gender equality in the work-place and combating gender-based discrimination in the employment sphere?
- What particular steps should governmental, private sector and civil society organizations take to ensure that women are given fair and appropriate consideration for appointments to senior position, especially in sectors and in organizations where they have historically been under-represented?
- How can employers and employees organizations promote gender-sensitive working environments?
- What measures are taken by participating States to eliminate gender-based stereotypes from education curricula?
- How can journalists, editors and other media professionals contribute to achieving the objective of gender-equality and gender-balance in public life?
- How can participating States encourage the sharing of work and parental responsibilities between women and men so that women can enjoy equal opportunities to participate effectively in political and public life?

16:00 – 16:30 Break

16:30 – 17:30 **CLOSING SESSION**

17:30 Close of Day 2



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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 aim of the SHDM is to discuss the implementation of OSCE commitments in Promoting Gender Balance and Participation of Women in Political and Public Life.

The meeting will address the theme of promoting gender balance and participation of women in political and public life through the following three sessions:

- Promoting gender equality in the OSCE region progress achieved and challenges
- Empowering women as political party members and as elected officials
- Ensuring gender balance and women's effective participation in public life

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 nongovernmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors and National Human Rights Institutions in OSCE participating States.

2. Participation

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

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 speeches, 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 in advance for circulation by the Documents Distribution Centre.

4. Organization

On-line registration for all participants is available at http://meetings.odihr.pl In case of any questions, please contact Ms. Anna Sierant at Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl or at tel.: +48 22 52 00 627 or Ms. Jolanta Cichocka at Jolanta.Cichocka @odihr.pl or at tel: +48 22 52 00 733.

In addition, advance registration will be available on Thursday 6 May 2010, from 9.00 in the Hofburg Congress Centre, in the main entrance hall. Registration during the Meeting is available at the same place.

5. 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.



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To civil society

Please find attached the agenda and general guidelines relating to the upcoming OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Promotion of Gender Balance and Participation of Women in Political and Public Life. This Meeting will take place in Vienna from 6 to 7 May 2010.

Additional information relevant to this Meeting can be found on ODIHR at http://www.osce.org/odihr

The meeting will address issues pertaining to gender balance and participation of women in political and public life by means of the following three areas:

- Promoting gender equality in the OSCE region progress achieved and challenges ahead
- Empowering women as political party members and as elected officials
- Ensuring gender balance and women's effective participation in public life

The Meeting will provide an important forum for dialogue and exchange of views and good practices among all key stakeholders involved in the work to promote gender balance and participation of women in political and public life. The conference will gather government officials, OSCE delegations, civil society, regional and international organizations, and is therefore seen as an important forum for discussing cross-cutting issues.

Civil society representatives whose activities directly relate to the topic of the Meeting and wish to attend are requested to register by **Wednesday**, **21 April 2010**. We encourage participants to register on-line at http://meetings.odihr.pl if at all possible.

Civil society representatives are invited to forward this information to other relevant actors in the given field.

Please note that participants can pick up their passes for the meeting venue in advance on Thursday, 6 May 2010 from 9.00 at the Hofburg Congress Centre in the main entrance hall. Participants may display information materials on the tables in the lobby of the main meeting room. They may also distribute documents during the Meeting by giving one copy of each document (maximum 3 pages in length) to staff of the Document Distribution Centre. Participants are encouraged to intervene during

the Working Sessions while limiting their statements to the specific issues at hand thereby contributing to a genuine discussion.

Unfortunately, the ODIHR is not in a position to provide any financial assistance to participate in the Meeting. For your convenience please find attached a list of hotels in Vienna. Participants are kindly requested to make their own hotel arrangements. For further information please contact Ms. Anna Sierant at Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl or at tel.: +48 22 52 00 627 or Ms. Jolanta Cichocka at Jolanta.Cichocka@odihr.pl or at tel: +48 22 52 00 733.

HOTELS IN VIENNA

OSCE Special Rate No Special Rate Offered

name	booking e-mail address website	address	telephone	fax	sgl/dbl rate

Vienna MARRIOTT Hotel	vienna.reservations@marriotthotels.com www.marriott.de (booking code: OSXC PPLUS NO 036544)	Parkring 12a, 1010 Wien	515 18 53	515 18 6736	€155 breakfast from €17.50
INTER-CONTINENTAL Wien	vienna@interconti.com www.intercontinental.at	Johannesgasse 28, 1037 Wien	711 22 26	711 22 344	€135/ €155 incl. breakfast
Hotel DE FRANCE	defrance@austria-hotels.at www.hoteldefrance.at	Schottenring 3, 1010 Wien	313 68-0	319 59 69	€132/ €152 incl. breakfast
Hotel HERRENHOF	reservation@herrenhof-wien.steigenberger.at www.herrenhof-wien.steigenberger.at	Herrengasse 10, 1010 Wien	534 04	534 04 100	€139 deluxe €169 breakfast €26
RADISSON SAS STYLE Hotel Vienna	infostyle.viennaradissonblu.com www.radissonblu.com	Herrengasse 12, 1010 Wien	22 78 00	22 780 79	Government rate €165/ €180 incl. breakfast
HILTON VIENNA PLAZA	Reservations.vienna@hilton.com www.hilton.at	Schottenring 11, 1010 Wien	313 90	313 90 2209	€129 €154 incl. breakfast
VIENNA HILTON	Reservations.vienna@hilton.com www.hilton.at	Am Stadtpark, 1030 Wien	717 14 000	717 00 11 000	€129/€154 incl. breakfast
HOTEL SACHER	Reservation.vienna@sacher.com	Philharmonikerstrasse 4. 1010 Wien	514 56-0	514 56-799	€199 buffet breakfast from €30
BEST WESTERN HOTELS WORLDWIDE	www.bestwestern.at, www.bestwestern.com, www.bestwestern-ce.com OSCE company ID: ID 01487680	Worldwide	505 47 06-11		

Best Western Hotel KAISERHOF Vienna	reservation@hotel-kaiserhof.at www.hotel-kaiserhof.at	Frankenberggasse 10, 1040 Wien	505 17 01 81	505 88 75 88	€109 superior €132 incl. breakfast

Please note that room rates are subject to alteration depending on various factors, e.g. season

name	booking e-mail address website	address	telephone	fax	sgl/dbl rate
Hotel AM PARKRING Wien (Schick Hotels)	parkring@schick-hotels.com www.schick-hotels.com	Parkring 12, 1010 Wien	514 80	514 80 40	€119/ €163 incl. breakfast
Best Western Hotel ERZHERZOG RAINER (Schick Hotels)	rainer@schick-hotels.com www.schick-hotels.com	Wiedner Haupstr. 27-29, 1040 Wien	22 111	22 111 350	€98/ €138 incl. breakfast
Hotel CAPRICORNO Wien (Schick Hotels)	capricorno@schick-hotels.com www.schick-hotels.com	Schwedenplatz 3-4, 1010 Wien	533 31 04	533 76 714	€100/ €144 incl. breakfast
Hotel CITY CENTRAL Wien (Schick Hotels)	city.central@schick-hotels.com www.schick-hotels.com	Taborstrasse 8, 1020 Wien	211 05	211 05 140	€100/ €144 incl. breakfast
Hotel STEFANIE Wien (Schick Hotels)	sabine.pollak@schick-hotels.com www.schick-hotels.com	Taborstrasse 12, 1020 Wien	211 500	211 50 160	€113/ €147 incl. breakfast
Hotel AMADEUS	office@hotel-amadeus.at www.hotel-amadeus.at	Wildpretmarkt 5, 1010 Wien	533 87 38	533 87 38 38	€90-126 / € 162 incl. breakfast
Hotel ASTORIA (Austria Trend Hotels & Resorts)	astoria@austria-trend.at www.austria-trend.at	Kärntnerstraße 32-34, 1010 Wien	515 77	515 77 82	€123/ €153 incl. breakfast
Hotel JOHANN STRAUSS	info@hotel-johann-strauss.at www.hotel-johann-strauss.at	Favoriten Strasse 12, 1040 Wien	505 76 24	505 76 28	€88/ €125 incl. breakfast
Das TYROL	reception@hotel-tyrol-vienna.com www.das-tyrol.at	Mariahilferstraße 15, 1060 Wien	587 54 15	587 54 15 9	€129/ €165 incl. breakfast
Hotel REGINA (Kremslehner Hotels)	regina@kremslehnerhotels.at www.kremslehnerhotels.at	Rooseveltplatz 15, 1090 Wien	404 46	408 83 92	€79/ €109 incl. breakfast
GRABEN Hotel (Kremslehner Hotels)	graben@kremslehnerhotels.at www.kremslehnerhotels.at	Dorotheergasse 3, 1010 Wien	512 15 31	512 15 31 20	€79/ €109 incl. breakfast
Hotel ROYAL (Kremslehner Hotels)	royal@kremslehnerhotels.at www.kremslehnerhotels.at	Singerstraße 3, 1010 Wien	515 68 96	513 96 98	€79/ €109 incl. breakfast
NH Hotels	m.kral@nh-hotels.com	Airport, Belvedere, Mariahilfe strasse	260 20 8110	260 20 8108	€95/ €110 incl. breakfast €80/ €80 excl. breakfast
Mercure Secession	H3532@accor.com	Getreidemarkt 5	58838	58838212	€95/ €110 incl. breakfast

name	booking e-mail address website	address	telephone	fax	sgl/dbl rate
Best Western Hotel DAS TIGRA	info@hotel-tigra.at www.hotel-tigra.at	Tiefer Graben 14, 1010 Wien	533 96 41	533 96 45	€104 / €142 incl. breakfast
Hotel MAILBERGER HOF	reception@mailbergerhof.at www.mailbergerhof.at	Annagasse 7, 1010 Wien	512 06 41	512 06 41 10	€80 - €95 incl. breakfast
Hotel MARC-AUREL	info@hotel-marcaurel.at www.hotel-marcaurel.com	Marc-Aurel-Straße 8, 1010 Wien	533 36 40	533 00 78	€99 - €159 (variable price) incl. breakfast

Pension NOSSEK & Co	reservation@pension-nossek.at www.pension-nosek.at	Graben 17, 1010 Wien	533 70 41	535 36 46	€76-80/ €120 incl. breakfast
Hotel ALPHA	alpha@austria-hotels.at www.hotelalpha.at	Buchfeldgasse 8 1080 Wien	403 52 91	403 52 91-62	€80/ €90 incl. breakfast
Hotel GRAF STADION	hotel@graf-stadion.com www.graf-stadion.com	Buchfeldgasse 5, 1080 Wien	40 55 284	40 50 111	€60-85/ €80-150
Hotel POST	office@hotel-post-wien.at www.hotel-post-wien.at	Fleischmarkt 24, 1010 Wien	515 83	515 83 808	€73/ €100 Apr-Oct €87/ €100
Hotel SCHWEIZERHOF	office@schweizerhof.at www.schweizerhof.at	Bauernmarkt 22, 1010 Wien	533 19 31	533 02 14	€90/ €130 incl. breakfast
Hotel zur WIENER STAATSOPER	office@zurwienerstaatsoper.at www.zurwienerstaatsoper.at	Krugerstraße 11, 1010 Wien	513 12 74	513 12 74 15	€87-95/ €117-135
Hotel WANDL	reservation@hotel-wandl.com www.hotel-wandl.com	Petersplatz 9, 1010 Wien	534 550	534 55 77	Government rate €99/ €153
Hotel KÄRTNTNERHOF	info@karntnerhof.com www.karntnerhof.com	Grashofgasse 4, 1011 Wien	512 19 23	513 22 28 33	€80- 103/ €124-157 incl. breakfast
Hotel DREI KRONEN	office@hotel3kronen.at www.hotel3kronen.at	Schleifmühlgasse 25, 1040 Wien	587 32 89	587 32 89 11	€69-99 - €79-148 incl. breakfast
CLIMA CITY Hotel	reservierung@climacity-hotel.com www.climacity-hotel.com	Theresianumgasse 21a, 1040 Wien	505 16 96	504 35 52	€75/ €90
Hotel AUSTRIA Wien	office@hotelaustria-wien.at www.hotelaustria-wien.at	Am Fleischmarkt 20, 1010 Wien	515 23	515 23 506	€83-95 - €114-129 incl. breakfast

name	booking e-mail address website	address	telephone	fax	sgl/dbl rate
Hotel-Pension MUSEUM	info@hotelmuseum.at www.hotelmuseum.at	Museumstraße 3, 1070 Wien	523 44 26	523 44 26-30	€70/€125 Double for single use €85 incl. breakfast