



SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING ON

FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

**9-10 July 2009
Hofburg, Vienna**

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 on freedom of religion or belief.

The meeting will focus on the following three areas:

- From Commitments to Implementation: Freedom of Religion or Belief in the OSCE Area
- Status of Religious or Belief Communities
- Places of Worship

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. Aleksandra Pietrowska at Aleksandra.Pietrowska@odihr.pl or at tel: +48 22 52 00 778.

In addition, advance registration will be available on Thursday 9 July 2009, 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.