



Statement by the Delegation of Slovenia
at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Warsaw, 25 September 2013

Working Session 5 – Fundamental Freedoms II, including Human Rights Education

In addition to the joint EU statement allow me to underline the importance of human rights education not only for promoting and respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms but also for building tolerant and open societies.

Slovenia is fully committed to further promoting the principles of the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, which also refers to human rights education with an emphasis on the younger generation.

Furthermore, we are also committed to actively promoting the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training and to advancing the implementation of the UN World Programme for Human Rights Education. In this vein, we included human rights education in the primary and secondary school systems, and have been providing such education to youth, police, the military and the people working in the judicial system.

We deem it important to expand the focus of human rights education to include also professionals working in mass media, as they have the power to disseminate implicitly and/or explicitly human rights contents, or, adversely, spread prejudice and stereotyping through their deliverance of media contents.

As we advocate human rights education with an emphasis on the younger generation, we would also like to underline a specific aspect to which special attention should be granted in devising action for promoting tolerance and social inclusion through human rights education: the rights of the elderly. In this regard, special emphasis should be paid to promoting inter-generational dialogue, fighting



negative stereotyping of the elderly, and disseminating media contents that support positive role and active participation of older persons in all walks of life.

With the aim of spreading the awareness of human rights among children, Slovenia developed during its OSCE chairmanship in 2005 a project titled "Our Rights", based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The project has been carried out in a number of OSCE countries, and was translated into 20 languages. Children from different cultural background and religion have been addressed through the project which has been conducted in cooperation between the Slovenian State and NGOs. Slovenia stands ready to cooperate with other countries to further disseminate this project.

To galvanize the efforts that States undertake through their human rights education and training programmes at national and local levels, we encourage enhanced focus to be granted to international cooperation between the OSCE, Council of Europe and the UN as well as numerous NGOs.