



## PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

### NORWEGIAN STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF ODIHR ON THE HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile  
to the Permanent Council,  
Vienna, 7 November, 2013

Mr Chairman,

Let me join previous speakers in thanking Director Lenarcic for his report and for the opportunity to discuss this year's Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw.

Mr Chairman,

I came back from the last HDIM with a clear conviction of the importance of the meeting and of the continued need for this forum for dialogue. The many important issues raised by participating states as well as by representatives of civil society demonstrate this. In fact, testimonies from the NGOs are among the most important contributions. Through their experience and observations they provide concrete assessments of how we live up to our commitments. Let me add, however, that I share the concern expressed by my American colleague about the many GONGOs that participate at the HDIM.

Mr Chairman,

The many interesting side-events organized by NGOs provided an opportunity to discuss issues in more depth. My delegation was pleased to co-sponsor a side-event on abolishment of the death penalty.

Any attempts to reform HDIM must also aim at improving it as an arena for dialogue between governments and civil society. A dialogue is by definition between two parties. We must all be prepared to listen and respond when our implementation of commitments is challenged.

Only by taking criticism seriously can we strengthen the implementation of our OSCE commitments and thereby improve our societies.

Mr Chairman,

All the topics on HDIM's agenda relate to our commitments and are therefore important to discuss. Still, it is obvious that some agenda items attracted more attention than others. Some

sessions had long lists of speakers, resulting in 90 seconds' speaking time. Other sessions were completed early. This gives us a very clear message. Some issues need to be given more time, even though they may be controversial. Or rather, precisely because they are controversial.

Mr Chairman,

Many participating states at HDIM referred to guidelines and advice from ODIHR and told us how this guidance has helped their authorities in implementing reforms. Several delegations also expressed their gratitude to the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Representative on Freedom of the Media as well as to OSCE field missions. We note that the institutions and field missions are considered valuable, relevant and concrete in their work. We must bear this in mind in the on-going budget discussions. The institutions and field missions are cornerstones of our organization. We must provide the resources they need to keep up their efforts and fulfil the tasks we have given them.

Mr Chairman,

I would like to thank the incoming Swiss chairmanship for presenting at HDIM their priorities for the human dimension. We note with satisfaction their intention of involving civil society more closely in our work. This involvement, along with the Swiss priorities, is important also for my government.

In conclusion, let me reiterate our thanks to Director Lenarcic and ODIHR for their excellent preparations and organization of HDIM and, more importantly, for the professional and valuable work they do throughout the year.

Thank you, Mr Chairman