

662nd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 662, Agenda item 4

**DECISION No. 793
AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL
MODALITIES OF THE 2007 HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR**

Warsaw, 16 to 18 May 2007

Effective participation and representation in democratic societies**I. Agenda**

1. Opening of the Seminar
2. Opening plenary: Keynote interventions
3. Discussion in four working groups
4. Closing plenary: Summing up and closing of the Seminar

II. Timetable and other organizational modalities

1. The Seminar will open in Warsaw on Wednesday, 16 May 2007, at 10 a.m. It will close on Friday, 18 May 2007, at 6 p.m.
2. All plenary sessions and working group sessions will be open to all participants.
3. The closing plenary session, scheduled for Friday afternoon, will focus on practical suggestions and recommendations for addressing the issues discussed during the working group sessions.
4. The plenary and working group sessions will take place in accordance with the work programme below.
5. A representative of the ODIHR will chair the plenary sessions.

6. The Rules of Procedure of the OSCE and the modalities for OSCE meetings on human dimension issues (PC.DEC/476) will be followed, *mutatis mutandis*, at the Seminar. Also, the guidelines for organizing OSCE meetings (PC.DEC/762) will be taken into account.

7. The discussions during the plenary and working group sessions will be interpreted from and into the six working languages of the OSCE.

Working Group I: Participation and representation: trends in contemporary political life

This Working Group will discuss, *inter alia*:

- Forms of participation and representation;
- The potential for and impact of increasing direct civic engagement;
- Policy formation processes: the role of political parties, civil society, NGOs, universities and think-tanks;
- Political party formation: contemporary rallying points for established as well as new political parties.

Working Group II: Ways to improve the environment for political participation

This Working Group will discuss, *inter alia*:

- Policies ensuring equal opportunity and non-discrimination to facilitate participation in political processes;
- Challenges of connecting with constituents;
- Alternative mechanisms for participation, e.g., IT (such as e-democracy, blogs);
- Gender mainstreaming in contemporary politics: challenges to equal opportunity for participation in political processes;
- Youth engagement.

Working Group III: Role of democratic electoral processes in enhancing participation and representation

This Working Group will discuss, *inter alia*:

- Democratic elections as a tool for increasing public confidence in democratic institutions and political representation;
- Procedures and practices for achieving gender equality in participation and representation before, during and after elections;
- Increasing voter turnout.

Working Group IV: Participation of persons belonging to national minorities and underrepresented groups in democratic societies

This Working Group will discuss, *inter alia*:

- Effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in public life;
- Specific measures to enhance the inclusion of persons belonging to national minorities and other under-represented groups in the overall political process.

Work Programme

Working hours: 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
3–6 p.m.

	Wednesday, 16 May 2007	Thursday, 17 May 2007	Friday, 18 May 2007
Morning	Opening plenary session	WG II	WG IV
Afternoon	WG I	WG III	Concluding plenary session