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ENGLISH only

CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM
Astana, 26 November 2010
Palace of Peace and Accord (“Pyramid”)

Information circular No. 1

Introduction

The 2010 OSCE Review Conference will resume its work in Astana on 26 November 2010. The working sessions of the Review Conference in Astana on 26 and 27 November, which will be open to participation by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), will continue the forward-looking discussions that commenced in Warsaw on 7 and 8 October with a focus on three specially selected topics (Freedom of the Media, Intolerance against Migrants, and Trafficking in Human Beings, with a special focus on Trafficking in Children). Both the human dimension discussions and the entire Review Conference will conclude in the morning of 28 November with a reinforced plenary session, which will also be open to NGOs.

In addition to the peer review conducted among participating States in accordance with the CSCE Moscow Final Document of 1991, which has clearly prescribed that “commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension are of concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned”, participating States have repeatedly emphasized the increasing openness of OSCE to the valuable contributions that representatives of NGOs can make.

With this in view, Kazakhstan’s Chairmanship-in-Office has decided to support a proposal to hold a Civil Society Forum in Astana in the morning of 26 November 2010, just before the beginning of the Astana part of the Review Conference, in order to give NGO representatives an opportunity to address the full range of human dimension commitments and provide their recommendations for following up on remaining gaps in their implementation.

The discussions during the Civil Society Forum on 26 November 2010 are hence designed to provide an additional venue and platform for NGOs to supplement in a comprehensive fashion the review of implementation of all OSCE principles and commitments by all participating States as well as to present any tangible recommendations, which may then be circulated to all participants of the OSCE Review Conference.

1. Provisional Agenda of the Civil Society Forum

November 26 (Friday)

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|-------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 09.00 | - | Arrival of the Participants |
| 09.00-10.00 | - | Accreditation of the Participants |
| 10.00-11.30 | - | First Session: |

- Review of the implementation of all OSCE principles and commitments in the human dimension
- 11.30-11.45 - Coffee Break
- 11.45-13.00 - Second Session:
Forward looking discussions and recommendations for future action
- 13.00 - End of Forum

2. Participation in the Civil Society Forum

Representatives of OSCE participating States, Partners for Co-operation, OSCE Institutions, representatives of international organizations and representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) may participate in the Forum. No fee for participants is requested. **Participation in the Civil Society Forum will be open to all duly accredited participants in the Astana Part of the 2010 OSCE Review Conference.** Please note that all NGOs wishing to attend **both** the Civil Society Forum and the OSCE Review Conference will be admitted subject to the provisions contained in Chapter IV, paragraphs 15 and 16 of the Helsinki Document 1992 and on the basis of the procedures set out in the OSCE Permanent Council Decision No. 952 (PC.DEC/952).

3. Registration for the Civil Society Forum

Individuals who have already registered for the OSCE Review Conference Astana part are automatically entitled to attend the Civil Society Forum. Those who have not yet registered, are kindly requested to fill in the registration form for the Astana Part of the OSCE Review Conference (see Annex 4 in the Logistical Modalities and Practical Arrangements of the Astana Part of Review Conference) in order to register for the Review Conference and to send it to elke.lidarik@osce.org , fax: +43-1-531 37 577. The deadline for registration is **19 November 2010** (later applications will be accepted, but immediate processing cannot be guaranteed).

Note: Registration for the Civil Society Forum or for the Astana part of the OSCE Review Conference does not grant access to the 2010 OSCE Summit. Registration for the OSCE Summit must be done separately according to appropriate information circular for NGOs.

4. Accreditation for the Civil Society Forum (issuing badges)

Access to the area of the Civil Society Forum and the following Review Conference will be permitted only with badges.

To receive badges, all participants should contact the Review Conference's accreditation desk at the Palace of Peace and Accord (Pyramid) in order to obtain the badges. By using the opportunity of advanced registration, delays in issuing the conference badges before the opening of the conference could be avoided. The accreditation desk will be open on Thursday,

25 November, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and on the following days from 9 a.m. until the end of the meetings.

5. CONTRIBUTIONS AND DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTION

Those making contributions are encouraged to submit them in writing under the appropriate agenda item and working session, with clear indication of the event(s) to which the contribution is made for – the Civil Society Forum or OSCE Review Conference, or both. Please note that contributions to any of these two events will not be accepted from those who are not accredited to the respective event. Contributions (prepared statements, background documentation, comments or other written materials) should be submitted to the Documents Distribution Centre (documents@osce.org), located in Pyramid, which will circulate them to all participants of the respective event. Advance submission of contributions for circulation and advance submission of the texts of oral interventions for the use of interpreters are strongly encouraged.

6. Interpretation/Languages

During the Civil Society Forum, simultaneous interpretation will be provided between English and Russian.

7. Accommodation/Transportation/General Information

Information on accommodation and transportation for participants of the Civil Society Forum and the OSCE Review Conference, as well as general information can be found in the 2010 OSCE Review Conference information circular RC.INF/1/10/Add.1 of 7 October 2010 (http://www.osce.org/documents/osce/2010/10/46844_en.pdf).

8. Useful information

Climate

The climate in Kazakhstan is continental with cold winters and hot summers. Precipitation varies between arid and semi-arid conditions. Temperature in Astana in December usually varies from –20 to –10 °C.

Time

West/East (UTC+3/+4; +5/+6)

Emergencies and First Aid

First aid will be provided at the Pyramid .

Smoking

In accordance with the legislation of Kazakhstan, smoking in public places is prohibited.

Banking Services

ATMs are available in the majority of hotels.

Currency

Local currency is Tenge (KZT). More information on www.nationalbank.kz. Most of hotels, shops, etc. accept all types of credit cards (Visa, Master-Card). The approximate rate is 1 EUR = 200 KZT.

International Calls

For international calls, please dial: 8 - 10 - country code - number.

Emergency Numbers

101- Fire emergency

102- Police

103- Ambulance service

Electric Gauges

Voltage of the alternating current comprises 220 V with 50 Hz frequency, sockets according to the European standards have two round pin contacts.

For taxi services please contact a hotel reception or a transportation desk at the venue.