



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

**OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting  
Working Session 5  
Tolerance and non-discrimination I**

**Right to Reply**

1. The Republic of Serbia will never recognize UDI of Kosovo. This position is enshrined in our constitution, and will not change.

Serbia's strategic decision to contest the Kosovo issue at the International Court of Justice - by prevailing in the United Nations General Assembly - constituted a paradigm shift in favor of peace in the Western Balkans.

At Serbia's initiative, an issue of such fundamental importance and complexity - passionately involving all at once identity, boundaries, communal rights, opposing historical narratives - was steered clear of resorting to the force of arms for the first time in the history of our region.

We hold the view that all UN member States as well as all OSCE participating States should respect the fact that the International Court of Justice will adjudicate on the legality of Kosovo's UDI. No one should in any way pre-judge its deliberations.

We therefore expect no one to encourage further recognitions, just as we expect membership in regional or multilateral institutions that are the privilege of sovereign states not to be extended to the authorities in Pristina. Such initiatives could only upset the unstable equilibrium on the ground, which is surely not in anyone's interest.

We would also like to stress that in the last couple of years the human rights record in our southern province has not improved. IDPs have not returned. Jobs have not been created. Destroyed homes belonging to Serbs and other non-Albanian communities have not been rebuilt. Their private property has not been returned. Organized crime has not been reduced. And our cultural heritage has not become more secure.

2. We consider that all forms of human trafficking are a serious crime that violates human dignity. We support all activities towards effective responses to combating this crime in terms of prevention, protection and prosecution in all participating States.

3. As a responsible UN member State and a responsible participating State of the OSCE, the Republic of Serbia is doing everything possible to locate and arrest the two indictees still at large, just like we have done with the other accused of committing war crimes. We stand ready to complete cooperation with ICTY successfully because there is a strong political commitment in Serbia to do so and a deep conviction that finalization of this cooperation is an integral part of consolidating the values of Europe in our entire society.