



## **30th anniversary OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities**

**24 October 2023**

**Academy Hall, Peace Palace  
The Hague**

**09:00 – 10:00 Registration and welcome coffee**

**10:00 – 10:30 Opening remarks**

Opening remarks on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the first OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Max van der Stoep, assuming his duties in The Hague.

- **Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov**, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities
- **His Excellency Bujar Osmani**, OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia (pre-recorded statement)
- **Her Excellency Helga Maria Schmid**, OSCE Secretary General
- **His Excellency Paul van den IJssel**, Ambassador for International Organisations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

*Master of Ceremonies: Ambassador Marek J. Szczygiel, Director, OSCE HCNM*

**10:30 – 10:45 Keynote speech by Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris**, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights

**10:45 – 11:00 Congratulatory remarks by high-level guests**

**11:00 – 11:15 Coffee break**

**11:15 – 12:45 Panel discussion:  
30 years of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities:  
Lessons learned, present perspectives and future application of the  
mandate**

A panel comprised of the successive High Commissioners will look back on the work of the institution. Each High Commissioner will reflect on how they (have) carried out their mandate and their approaches towards strengthening social cohesion through integration. The High Commissioners will also share their views on the complementary duality in the mandate – with human and minority rights on the one hand and pragmatic security interests on the other



– and unpack their respective approaches. Lastly, the High Commissioners will discuss the role of the institution within the contemporary security and geopolitical landscape and offer their thoughts on applying lessons learned going forward.

- **Message from Ambassador Rolf Ekéus**, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (2001–2007)
- **Ambassador Knut Vollebæk**, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (2007–2013)
- **Ms. Astrid Thors**, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (2013–2016)
- **Ambassador Lamberto Zannier**, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (2017–2020)
- **Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov**, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (2020 to present)

*Moderator: Mr. Zahid Movlizada, Head of Section/Senior Adviser, OSCE HCNM*

**12:45 – 14:00 Lunch break**

**14:00 – 15:15 Presentation of HCNM’s *Recommendations on the Effective Participation of National Minorities in Social and Economic Life & Explanatory Note***

This panel will present the HCNM’s latest publication, the *Recommendations on the Effective Participation of National Minorities in Social and Economic Life & Explanatory Note* (Socio-Economic Recommendations). This is the HCNM’s tenth set of thematic Recommendations and Guidelines. It is the result of several years of work with prominent international experts to develop concrete advice to policymakers on how to address challenges within several key areas of social and economic participation of national minorities, including education, employment, housing, health care, digital inclusion, regional development and environmental justice. Each of these areas gives specific consideration to gender, youth and the elderly. The expert drafters will share their reflections on the drafting process and ideas behind each of the key principles.

- **Ms. Jennifer Croft**, City Ombudsman at the City of Portland
- **Dr. Fernand de Varennes**, Former UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues and Adjunct Professor at the National University of Ireland-Galway and Visiting Professor at the Université Catholique de Lyon
- **Dr. Jennifer Jackson-Preece**, Associate Professor of Nationalism, European Institute & Department of International Relations, London School of Economics and Political Science
- **Dr. Andreea Cârstocea**, Senior Researcher, Head of the Equality and Inclusion Cluster, European Centre for Minority Issues
- **Mr. William Romans**, Head of Operations, Dispute Resolution, World Bank Accountability Mechanism

**Followed by an interactive discussion**

*Moderator: Ms. Elzbieta Kuzborska-Pacha, Senior Legal Adviser, OSCE HCNM*



**15:15 – 16:30 Panel discussion:**

**Effective participation of national minorities in social and economic life:  
practical implications and good practices**

A panel of experts and practitioners will share their experiences and unpack some of the practical implications and significance of promoting the effective participation of national minorities in social and economic life. From their own unique perspective, each will focus on specific areas of social and economic participation.

- **Dr. Petra Roter**, President of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Council of Europe
- **Ms. Brankica Janković**, Commissioner for Protection of Equality of the Republic of Serbia
- **Dr. Vida Montvydaite**, Director of the Department of National Minorities under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania
- **Ms. Theresa Segovia**, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Followed by an interactive discussion**

*Moderator: Ms. Iryna Ulasiuk, Head of Section/Senior Adviser, OSCE HCNM*

**16:30 – 16:45 Closing remarks**

- **Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov**, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

**16:45 – 18:00 Afternoon reception**