

384th Plenary Meeting
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DECISION No. 467
**AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL
MODALITIES OF THE 2002 HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR**

“Judicial System and Human Rights”

(Warsaw, 23-25 April 2002)

I. Agenda

1. Opening of the Seminar
2. Opening plenary: Keynote interventions
3. Discussion in six 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 Tuesday, 23 April 2002, at 10 a.m. It will close on Thursday, 25 April 2002, at 6 p.m.
2. All plenary and working group sessions will be open.
3. The closing plenary, scheduled for Thursday afternoon, will focus on practical suggestions and recommendations for addressing the issues discussed during the working group sessions.

Working Group 1: The role of the judiciary in the administration of justice

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

- The place of the judiciary in the administration of justice system;

- The role of the judiciary in the investigative process and the establishment of checks and balances; the relationship of the judiciary *vis-à-vis* law enforcement and the prosecution; ensuring the principle of equality of arms;
- The role of the judicial system with regard to human rights violations committed by law enforcement agencies.

Working Group 2: Safeguarding the independence of the judiciary

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

- Challenges to the independence and the integrity of the judiciary in OSCE participating States and ways of its better safeguarding;
- The appointment and dismissal process and the extent to which the executive branch of government regulates this process; the system of salaries and benefits; other possible areas of interference;
- The role of constitutional and legal provisions in safeguarding the independence of the judiciary;
- Transparency and good governance in the judiciary.

Working Group 3: Access to justice

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

- Access to justice as a fundamental right in a democratic society;
- Challenges to an effective access to justice in the OSCE area: the system of legal aid, legal representation, long delays in the administration of justice, etc.; good practices drawn from OSCE participating States;
- Access to justice with regard to administrative decisions;
- Effective access to justice for all groups in a society and the relationship between access to justice and the representation of groups in the legal system.

Working Group 4: The role of the judiciary in pre-conflict and post-conflict situations

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

- The role of the judicial system in conflict prevention and early warning;
- The challenges of rebuilding an equitable judicial system in a post-conflict environment;

- Lessons learned from the international community and OSCE missions regarding comprehensive post-conflict assistance for rebuilding the rule of law and an independent judiciary.

Working Group 5: The judicial system and the economic dimension

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

- The role of the judicial system in creating confidence in an environment conducive to long-term economic stability in OSCE participating States;
- The importance of good governance in the judicial system and best practices drawn from OSCE participating States.

Working Group 6: Improving the enforcement of human rights by the judiciary

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

- Increasing the knowledge and awareness of international human rights standards within the judiciary; the effect of international human rights law as part of domestic law;
- Improving training in human rights standards and capacity-building;
- The challenge of creating a legal culture and tradition, including the respect for human rights and the role of supreme and constitutional courts;
- Monitoring of the judicial system by civil society and ensuring of transparency as a tool to enhance respect for human rights;
- The role of professional associations, domestic and international.

4. The plenary and working group sessions will take place in accordance with the work programme below.

5. An ODIHR representative will chair the plenary sessions.

6. Standard OSCE rules of procedure and working methods will be applied at the Seminar.

7. Discussions will be interpreted from and into all six working languages of the OSCE.

WORK PROGRAMME

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

	Tuesday, 23 April 2002	Wednesday, 24 April 2002	Thursday, 25 April 2002
Morning	Inaugural plenary session	WGs 1 and 4 (parallel)	WGs 5 and 6 (parallel)
Afternoon	WG 2	WG 3	Concluding plenary session