



STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

Working Session 2 FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS II (Human Rights Education)

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (Warsaw, 24 September - 5 October 2012)

Mr/Ms Moderator, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Slovenia fully subscribes to the statement delivered earlier on behalf of the European Union, which addresses all elements of this session.

In this session, we would like to however particularly outline the importance we attach to the **human rights education**. It enables every individual to learn about their rights and responsibilities, and thus also to respect the rights and responsibilities of others around. Human rights education and learning is a lifelong and systematic process, which includes formal, informal or non-formal forms of education about, for, and through human rights. The preventive role of good knowledge of human rights in promoting universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with the principles of universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights, can not be emphasized enough.

All the mentioned notions have been reflected in several OSCE decisions in the past.

They have also been reflected in the **Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training** adopted last December by the **UN General Assembly**, which we consider a milestone achievement. The Declaration has among others confirmed that human rights violations and other forms of intolerance and discrimination can be eliminated through human rights education and the promotion of a culture of peace, non-discrimination and tolerance.

Slovenia would also like to use this opportunity to share the information about the **human rights education project for children entitled 'Our Rights'**, which was initially launched as a pilot project during the Slovenian Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2005, and was carried out in several countries throughout the OSCE area during Slovenia's Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in 2009.

The project 'Our Rights' is intended for children aged ten to twelve, from different cultural backgrounds and of different religions or beliefs. The teaching materials for the project, that have been translated into 19 languages, have been developed taking into account good practices in Slovenian schools, they include flash cards and

albums that children are to study and collect and thus learn the rights of the child, based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In 2012, Slovenia re-launched the project in several countries and regions, among them in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Ossetia (RF) and will introduce it in Moldova, and parts of the Russian Federation, such as Chechnya and Dagestan.

Let me conclude by saying that the work on human rights education and its promotion, in the context of overall promotion of human rights has been a consistent policy of my Government in all domestic and international fora. We will continue to pursue these topics also through other international bodies, including the **United Nations Human Rights Council**, for which we have put forward a candidature to be again a member for the period 2016-2018.

Thank you.