



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
(Warsaw, 26th - 7th October 2011)

Working Session 3

FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS II, Human Rights Education

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

Mr/Ms Moderator, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Slovenia is committed to the promotion of human rights education and believes that the OSCE is an indispensable actor in this area. The OSCE commitments in the field of human rights education are numerous and comprehensive and in the past exceptional progress has been made in their implementation. Slovenia welcomes the cooperation with and between the OSCE, Council of Europe and the UN and encourages all international organisations to even further enhance and strengthen the cooperation and coordination in this field.

Slovenia views human rights education as an essential element for efficient and comprehensive protection and promotion of human rights. Effective human rights education and training can prevent human rights violations by promoting a culture of peace, non-discrimination and tolerance.

Slovenia is member of the Platform for Human Rights Education and Training, which is an informal cross-regional grouping of states within the framework of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC). The Platform was created in September 2007 and is currently composed of seven countries from all geographic regions of the United Nations: namely, Costa Rica, Italy, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal, Slovenia, and Switzerland. The Platform is presently in particularly involved in efforts to promote the following main initiatives: The World Programme for Human Rights Education and the draft United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training.

Slovenia has been active in implementing the first phase of the world programme (*human rights education in the primary and secondary school systems*) and has taken the first steps to organise the implementation of its second phase (*human rights education for higher education and on human rights training programmes for teachers and educators, civil servants, law enforcement officials and military personnel*). In early June this year the Government has established a Governmental Working Group for the implementation of the second phase of the WPHRE, which consists of representatives of the Ministry for higher education, science and technology, Ministry for public administration and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

We welcome the adoption of the Plan of Action for the second phase of the World Programme (focusing on human rights education for higher education and on human rights training programmes for teachers and educators, civil servants, law enforcement officials and military personnel), which was adopted by the UN Human Rights Council last year.

The Platform has been actively involved in promoting the implementation of the World programme. We welcome in this regard the efforts of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for its leadership regarding the World Programme for Human Rights Education and express satisfaction over the broad support by states to the world programme. We further encourage all OSCE participating states to actively engage in the second phase of the World Programme and to give special emphasis to adequate human rights education and training for agents of the state to ensure they perform their tasks in respect of human rights by preventing torture, discrimination on all grounds and intolerance, and by taking into account social differences.

We welcome the adoption of the draft Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training in the UN Human Rights Council during the March session of the Human Rights Council. Let us express satisfaction about the adoption and also express conviction that the declaration will be adopted by the General Assembly this autumn and thus become one of the international documents on human rights.

The Declaration encompasses all the relevant principles and responsibilities related to human rights education and training. By adopting it, countries in the international community are unanimously confirming the importance of human rights education and training, and of the respect of human rights.

Human rights education is a lifelong process, especially young people should be the first target for education on universal human rights and thus empowering children remains a key priority of our policy.

Thank you for your kind attention!