

179th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 179, Agenda item 6

DECISION No. 246/Corrected reissue***ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES, INDICATIVE AGENDA AND
WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ON
HUMAN DIMENSION ISSUES**

(Warsaw, 26 October-6 November 1998)

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES

1. The Implementation Meeting will begin with a plenary session. Discussions in subsequent working sessions will review both the implementation of Human Dimension commitments and the procedures and mechanisms for monitoring and enhancing compliance with these commitments. The activities of the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues will be addressed in the context of discussions on individual items relevant to their respective activities. In addition, two separate sessions will be devoted to the procedures and mechanisms for monitoring and enhancing compliance with Human Dimension commitments. The last two days of the meeting will be reserved for plenary sessions.

One moderator and two rapporteurs will be appointed on the basis of proposals by the Chairman-in-Office following appropriate consultations.

As a general rule, no intervention should exceed seven minutes.

2. Broad attendance by representatives of all the participating States, in particular those recently admitted, will be essential. Upon request, financial assistance could be provided from the OSCE Voluntary Fund to foster the integration of recently admitted participating States.

Participating States will endeavour to be represented at a high level, in particular at the closing plenary sessions, by those responsible for shaping their policies regarding Human Dimension issues.

Heads of other international organizations and institutions having relevant experience in the Human Dimension field will also be invited to participate, in particular in the closing plenary sessions.

* Incorporates corrections to paragraph numbering.
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3. The High Commissioner on National Minorities, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and the Director of the ODIHR will be invited to participate in the meeting. They and/or their representatives will take part in discussions on all individual items relevant to the activities of their respective institution/body in order to assist the participating States in reviewing, *inter alia*, the institutional aspects of the implementation of OSCE Human Dimension commitments.

Heads of OSCE Missions and field activities will be invited to participate in the meeting. They and/or their representatives will be free to contribute to any session of the meeting relevant to their activities.

4. All sessions will be open to non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The participation of NGOs in discussions will be in conformity with the relevant OSCE decisions, and in particular the new modalities for the OSCE meetings on Human Dimension issues.

In order to provide better opportunities for contacts among delegates and NGOs, no formal sessions will be scheduled for the afternoon of 29 October or the morning of 5 November 1998.

5. In accordance with OSCE precedent and practice, all aspects of the Human Dimension may be discussed during the Implementation Meeting on Human Dimension Issues. The meeting will aim at enhancing co-operation to facilitate the implementation of Human Dimension commitments.

II. INDICATIVE AGENDA

1. Opening Plenary

The plenary proceedings will consist of:

- (a) Opening statements, including a statement by a representative of the Chairman-in-Office;
- (b) Report of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities;
- (c) Report of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media;
- (d) Report of the Director of the ODIHR.

2. Review of the implementation of Human Dimension commitments and the procedures for monitoring compliance with them

A thorough dialogue on the implementation of Human Dimension commitments by participating States in the OSCE area, a consideration of ways and means of improving implementation, on the basis of the broadest possible information, in particular from OSCE bodies and institutions as well as a review of the procedures and mechanisms for monitoring and enhancing compliance with particular commitments. The discussion will be structured in the following order, unless otherwise decided:

(a) Sessions 1-2

Rule of Law, including:

- Legislative transparency;
- Independence of the judiciary;
- Right to a fair trial.

Exchange of information on the question of the abolition of capital punishment.

Democratic institutions, including:

- Free and fair elections;
- Democracy at the national, regional and local levels.

Citizenship and political rights.

Civic education.

(b) Sessions 3-6

Human rights and fundamental freedoms, including:

- Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion or belief;
- Freedom of expression, free media and information;
- Freedom of association and the right of peaceful assembly;
- Freedom of movement;
- Prevention of torture;
- International humanitarian law.

(c) Sessions 7-8

Tolerance and non-discrimination:

- Equality of opportunity for men and women;
- Preventing aggressive nationalism;
- Ethnic cleansing;
- Racism;
- Chauvinism;
- Xenophobia;
- Anti-semitism.

Migration, refugees and displaced persons.

Migrant workers.

(d) Session 9

Culture and education.

Cultural heritage.

Human contacts.

Treatment of citizens of other participating States.

(e) Sessions 10-11

National minorities.

Roma and Sinti.

(f) Sessions 12-13

Human Dimension mechanisms and other relevant procedures.
Further integration of the Human Dimension in the regular activities of the Permanent Council.
The functioning of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.
Election observation: reports, procedures and co-operation framework.
Further integration of the Human Dimension in the work of the OSCE long- and short-term Missions.
Programme of Co-ordinated Support for recently admitted participating States.
Improved dissemination of information regarding the Human Dimension.
Human Dimension seminars and regional seminars.
Co-operation between the OSCE and other international organizations.

(g) Session 14

Role of NGOs, including:

- Contribution of NGOs to the Human Dimension;
- Co-operation between relevant NGOs and OSCE Institutions and instruments;
- Strengthening dialogue between Governments and NGOs.

3. Closing Plenary

(a) Presentation by the Rapporteurs

(b) Concluding statements (each not to exceed seven minutes).

WORK PROGRAMME

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

Week 1	Monday 26 October	Tuesday 27 October	Wednesday 28 October	Thursday 29 October	Friday 30 October
Morning	PL	Session 2	Session 4	Session 6	Session 7
Afternoon	Session 1	Session 3	Session 5	NGO meetings	Session 8

Week 2	Monday 2 November	Tuesday 3 November	Wednesday 4 November	Thursday 5 November	Friday 6 November
Morning	Session 9	Session 11	Session 13	NGO meetings	PL
Afternoon	Session 10	Session 12	Session 14	PL	PL

PL = Plenary meeting

Interpretative statement under paragraph 79 (Chapter 6) of
the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations

By the Delegation of Turkey:

“During the informal Permanent Council meetings at which we discuss and set the agenda and organizational modalities of the Human Dimension Review Implementation Meetings, Turkey has been a strong advocate for the inclusion of an agenda item dealing with combating terrorism. Unfortunately, until now, while other agenda items of interest to a particular country or group of countries have been received favourably, our proposal has not found consensus. This year, in last week’s informal PC meeting devoted to the agenda of the Human Dimension Implementation Review Meeting, Turkey did not table its long-standing proposal on terrorism. This does not imply that we no longer believe there is a direct link between terrorism and human rights. Indeed, a terrorist commits the most basic human rights violation by attacking the right to life, among others. The fallacy of the assumption that only State actors can commit human rights violations has once again been amply demonstrated by recent developments in the OSCE area. This year, in a spirit of co-operation, and upholding the interests of our Organization, we have deferred a lengthy discussion on this particular issue by taking into account the extraordinary circumstances which have necessitated organizing the Human Dimension Review Implementation Meeting at such short notice. However, we shall be bringing this matter up for discussion in Warsaw under any item we deem appropriate. Thus we concur with the decision today on the organizational modalities, indicative agenda and work programme for the Implementation Meeting on Human Dimension Issues within this framework, and we request you, Mr. Chairman, to kindly have this statement attached to that decision.”