



**SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING
ON
PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS:
RESPONSIBILITIES AND EFFECTIVE REMEDIES**

**12-13 July 2007
HOFBURG, VIENNA**

To non-governmental organisations and other interested individuals

Please find attached the agenda and general guidelines relating to the upcoming OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Protection and Promotion of Human Rights: Responsibilities and Effective Remedies, to be held at the Hofburg Congress Centre in Vienna on 12-13 July 2007. Additional information relevant to this Meeting can be found on ODIHR website at <http://www.osce.org/odihr>.

This SHDM will examine how participating States are addressing violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms that occur within their jurisdiction by considering specifically the role played by three vital actors in this regard: national courts, civil society and national human rights institutions. This Meeting will provide an opportunity to identify gaps in national systems for protecting human rights, and to examine what role these three different actors can play in identifying and addressing such gaps effectively. It will seek to identify ways in which their independence and capacity can be strengthened and enhanced.

The meeting will focus on the following three areas:

- The role of national courts in promoting and protecting human rights
- The role of human rights defenders in addressing human rights violations
- The role of independent national human rights institutions in promoting and protecting human rights

The conference attracts government officials, OSCE delegations, National Human Rights Institutions, human rights defenders (NGOs and civil society), regional and international organizations, and is therefore seen as an important forum for discussing cross-sectoral issues. For the ODIHR it is a unique opportunity to put issues relating to freedom of assembly, association and expression on the political agenda.

NGOs whose activities directly relate to the topic of the Meeting and wish to attend are requested to register on-line for this event by Wednesday, 27 June 2007. **On-line registration is available at <http://meetings.odihr.pl>**. In case of any questions, please contact Ms. Anna Sierant at Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl or at tel.: +48 22 520 06 00 (ext. 4121).

NGOs are invited to forward this information to other relevant actors in the given field.

Please note that participants can pick up their passes for the meeting venue in advance on Thursday, 12 July 2007 from 10.00 at the Hofburg Congress Centre, Segmentgalerie.

NGOs may display information materials about their organization on the tables in the lobby of the main meeting room. NGOs may also distribute documents during the Meeting by giving one copy of each document (maximum 3 pages in length) to staff of the Document Distribution Centre - preferably by e-mail elke.lidarik@osce.org . NGOs are encouraged to participate actively in the Working Sessions while limiting their interventions to the specific issues at hand thereby contributing to a genuine discussion.

Unfortunately, the ODIHR is not in a position to provide any financial assistance for NGOs to participate in this Meeting. For your convenience please find attached a list of hotels in Vienna. NGOs are kindly requested to make their own hotel arrangements.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Mark Guthrie, Deputy Head of the Human Rights Department, ODIHR at Mark.Guthrie@odhr.pl and Ms. Anna Sierant, ODIHR Administrative Assistant at Anna.Sierant@odhr.pl or office@odhr.pl .