

**OSCE Review Conference 2010
Human Dimension Segment**

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ENGLISH only

**Canadian Statement
Reinforced Plenary – Closing Session**

**Yves Beaulieu
Deputy Head of Delegation to the OSCE**

Thursday, October 7, 2010.

Thank you,

Over thirty years ago, the Helsinki Final Act set the foundation for security and stability in our vast OSCE region – it was a great milestone for us all. The Final Act embodies the fundamental connection between human rights and peace - the core principles and values of democracy, respect and promotion for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law.

As the OSCE embarks on a new strategic dialogue on Euro-Atlantic Security under the leadership of our Kazakh OSCE Chairman, Canada will be vigilant in preserving and strengthening the Human Dimension of our work.

We do so because some of our hard-fought gains during the past 20 years - since the Fall of the Berlin Wall - are seeing setbacks in parts of the OSCE region; a rollback that poses a significant threat to human rights and fundamental freedoms.

A right achieved is a right in need of protection. We cannot back down and become complacent on this. We must remain attentive and aware of the importance of these rights and the struggle to gain them and keep them.

OSCE commitments must be implemented fully by all participating States, not in an "*à la carte*" fashion as some are doing. For this reason, we must all be vigilant and renew our efforts to consolidate and implement our OSCE commitments. We are confident that the Astana Summit will help serve this purpose.

This year's Review Conference, in Warsaw, has witnessed lively and thought provoking discussions both in the plenary sessions and in the numerous side events. We believe it will serve as good foundation for building the necessary road ahead of the Summit.

Canada is pleased to see the presence here and active engagement of so many NGOs whose perspectives enrich our dialogue and OSCE work. In this connection, Canada salutes the bravery of Human Rights Defenders and NGO representatives who took part

in this meeting and who came forward to draw attention to serious human rights violations.

However, we regret that the situation of accreditation of NGOs was not managed in a fully satisfactory way. My delegation would like to express reservation to the method of exclusion of certain NGOs. In our view, this selective process could create an unfortunate precedent and a set back. We trust that the Chairmanship will resolve this issue prior to the next segment of our Review Conference.

We want Kazakhstan to know that they can count on Canada's support as we develop the road ahead of the Summit.

Before leaving the beautiful city of Warsaw, my Delegation would like to thank our Polish hosts, as well as the ODIHR Director, Ambassador Lenarcic, and his great team, for their excellent work and collaboration which again has guaranteed the success and charts the way ahead for our work at the OSCE Summit and beyond.

Thank you.