

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting  
Closing Session

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Madam Chair,

We would like to extend our gratitude to the ODIHR, OSCE Austrian Chairmanship and the Polish authorities for excellent organization of this year's HDIM and warm hospitality. Our thanks go to the introducers for their straight-forward and professional presentations.

The discussions revealed once again that security and human rights are strongly interlinked and violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms leads to security issues, including conflicts and crises.

The Delegation of Armenia took the floor at almost all working sessions on different topics and the common point in regard to all themes was that human rights should be protected for all regardless their nationality, ethnic origin, religion or status of territory they live in. Second, national security or fight against terrorism should not be invoked to justify gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of religion. Human rights should be even more protected throughout all phases of conflict cycle. Third, people residing in conflict areas are facing number of security threats, including risk of mass atrocities and displacement due to policy of some OSCE participating States. OSCE and its institutions have untapped potential of work in this field.

The Delegation of Armenia underscored importance of close cooperation with OSCE executive structures and field operations in implementation of the human dimension commitments. We regret that closure of the OSCE Office in Yerevan hampered cooperation with the OSCE. Meantime we would like to state that Armenia will find new ways of engagement with the OSCE and will continue to implement its commitments in good faith.

Like in previous HDIM meetings we noted high number of government organized NGOs. Fake news and fake civil society created carnival fun house mirrors where perpetrators of worst human rights violations became victims and the other way around. It is even more outrageous that this fake civil society tries to replace those who are currently behind bars. We understand that complete failure to comply with OSCE human dimension commitments and lack of any argument in supporting their policies compel those participating states to distort and spoil dialogue in HDIM.

My delegation tried to show an example of engaging with all representatives of civil society notwithstanding their critical remarks throughout the HDIM and their support for certain actions which were not peaceful and led to unjustified human casualties. There is no alternative to dialogue and evading dialogue by self-victimizing posturing is neither sincere nor helpful.

We hope that discussions at the HDIM and recommendations set solid framework for the OSCE Austrian Chairmanship in considering possible MC deliverables.

Thank You.