



Permanent Mission of
Finland to the OSCE



CIO2025/PS/116

Vienna, 30 September 2025

CIO2025/PS/116

Warsaw Human Dimension Conference 2025: Agenda with speakers

Excellencies,
Dear Colleagues,

Following my letter of 12 September (CIO.GAL/111/25) on the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference (WHDC), which will take place in Warsaw on 6-17 October, it is my pleasure to share with you the **agenda with speakers for the conference**.

Additional information about the conference, as well as an overview of the side events taking place during the conference, can be found online at:

<https://www.osce.org/chairmanship/2025whdc>.

Sincerely,

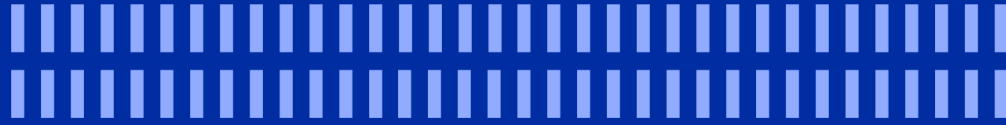
Vesa Häkkinen
Permanent Representative of Finland to the OSCE
Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council

To:

All Delegations of the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation
OSCE Secretariat
OSCE Institutions

Warsaw Human Dimension Conference

6–17 October 2025



Agenda

Monday, 6 October 2025

14:00 – 18:00 **Opening session**

Introductory remarks by:

- H.E. Elina Valtonen, 2025 OSCE Chair-in-Office, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland
- H.E. Radosław Sikorski, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland
- Ms. Maria Telalian, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
- H.E. Ambassador Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu, OSCE Secretary General
- Ambassador Jan Braathu, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
- Ambassador Christophe Kamp, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities
- Mr. Pere Joan Pons Sampietro, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Keynote speeches by:

- Mr. Michael O’Flaherty, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe
- Ms. Berit Lindeman, Secretary General of the Norwegian Helsinki Committee

Statements by participating States

Moderated by Ambassador Vesa Häkkinen, Permanent Representative of Finland to the OSCE, Chair of the Permanent Council

19:00 **Opening reception** hosted by the Finnish Chairpersonship

Villa Foksal, Foksal 3/5, 00-366 Warszawa

Tuesday, 7 October 2025

10:00 – 13:00 **Plenary session 1: Humanitarian issues, including:**

- International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law
- Humanitarian challenges, including in the context of armed conflict

Introductory remarks by:

- Mr. Jonathan Agar, Head of External Affairs, Office of the Prosecutor, International Criminal Court
- Mr. Nathaniel Raymond, Executive Director, Yale Public Health/ Humanitarian Research Lab
- Ms. Kateryna Rashevskya, Legal Expert, Regional Center for Human Rights Ukraine

Moderated by Ambassador Véronique Pepin-Hallé, Permanent Representative of Canada to the OSCE

13:00 – 15:00 Break

15:00 – 18:00 **Plenary session 2: Democratic institutions, including:**

- Democracy at the national, regional and local levels
- Democratic elections

Introductory remarks by:

- Mr. David Carroll, Director, the Carter Center
- Ms. Amu Urhonen, Member of ODIHR Advisory Panel on the Political Participation of Persons with Disabilities
- Mr. Adrien Licha, Coordinator of the Secretariat and the Eastern Partnership Unit, European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA)

Moderated by Ambassador Raphael Nägeli, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE

Wednesday, 8 October 2025

10:00 – 13:00 **Plenary session 3: Fundamental Freedoms I, including:**

- Freedom of expression, freedom of the media
- Safety of journalists

Introductory remarks by:

- Ambassador Jan Braathu, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
- Ms. Gulnoza Said, Europe and Central Asia Programme Coordinator at the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)
- Mr. Valentyn Koval, First Deputy Head of the National Council of Television and Broadcasting of Ukraine

Moderated by Ambassador Andrea Cascone, Permanent Representative of Italy to the OSCE

Thursday, 9 October 2025

10:00 – 13:00 **Plenary session 4: Rule of Law I, including:**

- Prevention and eradication of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
- Exchange of views on the question of abolition of capital punishment
- Protection of human rights when combatting terrorism

Introductory remarks by:

- Mr. Oleg Gushchyn, Legal Counsellor of the Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War, Ukraine
- Mr. Ben Saul, UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (online)
- Dr. Slavica Dimitrievska, State Counsellor for the National Preventive Mechanism at the North Macedonia Ombudsman Office and Member of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT)

Moderated by Ambassador Ellen Svendsen, Permanent Representative of Norway to the OSCE

Friday, 10 October 2025

10:00 – 13:00 **Plenary session 5: Rule of Law II, including:**

- Independence of the judiciary
- Right to a fair trial
- Democratic law-making

Introductory remarks by:

- Judge Diana Kovatcheva, Judge of the European Court of Human Rights
- Ms. Tuija Brax, Director of the Rule of Law Centre at the University of Helsinki
- Judge Mariarosaria Guglielmi, President of the association Magistrats Européens pour la Démocratie et les Libertés (MEDEL)

Moderated by Ambassador Florian Raunig, Permanent Representative of Austria to the OSCE

Monday, 13 October 2025

10:00 – 13:00 **Plenary session 6: Tolerance and non-discrimination I, including:**

- Addressing racism, xenophobia and discrimination, anti-Semitism and intolerance and discrimination against Christians, Muslims and members of other religions

Introductory remarks by:

- Rabbi Andrew Baker, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism
- Ambassador Evren Dağdelen Akgün, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims
- Dr. Wolfgang Palaver, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance against Christians and Members of Other Religions
- Ms. Nyanchama Okemwa, Chair of the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) Foundation

Moderation tbc

13:00 – 15:00 Break

15:00 – 18:00 **Plenary session 7: Tolerance and non-discrimination II, including:**

- Rights of persons belonging to national minorities
- Roma and Sinti issues

Introductory remarks by:

- Ambassador Christophe Kamp, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities
- Dr. Jennifer Jackson-Preece, Associate Professor of Nationalism, European Institute & Department of International Relations, London School of Economics and Political Science
- Mr. Đorđe Jovanović, President of European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC)

Moderated by Katharine Brucker, Chargé d’Affaires, United States Mission to the OSCE

Tuesday, 14 October 2025

10:00 – 13:00 **Plenary session 8: Tolerance and non-discrimination III, including:**

- Equal opportunities for women and men
- Preventing and combating violence against women and girls
- Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality

Introductory remarks by:

- Ms. Saara-Sofia Sirén, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender, Member of Finnish Parliament
- Ms. Dubravka Šimonović, President of the association PARITY NOW
- Mr. Dag Schölper, Executive Director of the Federal Forum Men/Bundesforum Männer

Moderated by Ambassador Anna Olsson Vrang, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the OSCE

Wednesday, 15 October 2025

10:00 – 13:00 **Plenary session 9: Humanitarian issues and other commitments, including:**

- Combating trafficking in human beings
- Refugees and displaced persons

Introductory remarks by:

- Dr. Kari Johnstone, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
- Mr. Dursa Mama Kadu, Co-founder and President of Spark15 and Board Member of Voicify
- Ms. Jane Lasonder, Anti-trafficking Advocate, Vice-Chair of the ODIHR International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council (ISTAC)

Moderated by Ambassador Fatène Benhabylès-Foeth, Permanent Representative of France to the OSCE

Thursday, 16 October 2025

10:00 – 13:00 **Plenary session 10: Fundamental freedoms II, including:**

- Freedom of peaceful assembly and association
- Human rights defenders
- National human rights institutions
- Freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief

Introductory remarks by:

- Ms. Anu Juvonen, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Civil Society, Executive Director of DEMO Finland
- Ms. Mariana Katzarova, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation
- Mr. András Léderer, Head of Advocacy, Hungarian Helsinki Committee

Moderated by Mr. James Ford, Deputy Head of Mission, United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE

Friday, 17 October 2025

09:00 – 10:30 *Roundtable discussion reflecting perspectives from the field*

The human dimension is well reflected in the work of the OSCE field operations and institutions. Over the past decades, the field missions have assisted host countries in building democratic institutions, strengthening the rule of law and supporting local civil society. This roundtable will bring together representatives from OSCE field operations and local stakeholders to discuss the implementation of human dimension commitments from a field perspective, highlighting collaborative approaches and success stories, while also reflecting on the challenges. Concrete examples from the field will provide a better understanding of the OSCE's value in promoting respect for human rights and fostering democratic resilience.

10:30 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 14:00 Closing session

Reinforced by the participation of human rights directors and/or human rights ambassadors

Moderated by Ambassador Katja Pehrman, Human Rights Ambassador of Finland