

**REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
DISCRIMINATION AT WORK AND IN EMPLOYMENT  
OPENING STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MARYSE DAVIET, HEAD OF THE OSCE  
MISSION TO MONTENEGRO  
HOTEL PRINCESS, BAR 30 MAY**

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Honourable President Vujanović,  
Honourable Minister Purišić,  
Honourable Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms Baković,  
Ms. Longo,  
Mister. Usein,  
Ms. Sljivancanin,  
Other honoured Guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
A very good morning!

First of all, can I say how pleased I am to be here today to open this conference on discrimination in employment.

Allow me, at the start to express our satisfaction with the long-standing partnership of the Mission with the Office of the Ombudsperson Institution.

Can I also thank the other stakeholders for acknowledging this important Institution and have readiness to support its work.

Can I finally express my gratitude to the presenters here today, and, most of all, to each of you for your active participation over the next two days!

I am convinced that this Conference will contribute to further strengthening of national capacities to respond to the issue of discrimination especially in the field of employment.

The phenomenon of discrimination is still present in the world today and remains a continuing threat to peaceful co-existence and community cohesion in many parts of the OSCE region.

This problem continues to raise many concerns with various societal groups are still finding themselves in under-privileged positions.

Yet, we can say that with the development of modern society and the broadening of human rights protections since the last century, the understanding of discrimination has become stronger.

Across the OSCE area, the fight, the struggle to curb this issue is becoming stronger every day.

That is why we must unite in our collective efforts.

That is why we must use all of our available resources in combating this problem.

That is why we must invest our efforts in preventing discrimination against vulnerable groups.

That is why we must strengthen our efforts to ensure an end to all forms of discrimination.

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Looking closer to home, the values of human decency, tolerance and peaceful coexistence are ones firmly and historically rooted in the Montenegrin spirit.

Montenegro has always been a multicultural, multi-ethnic and multi-national society.

Since the restoration of its independence more than a decade ago, we should fully acknowledge that Montenegro has made major progress in transforming the concept of human rights into very much a human reality.

However, while much has been achieved, much remains to be done.

While much of its anti-discrimination laws are in place, implementation requires development.

That is why those implementing the law need to be made aware of the roles respected of them.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The challenge ahead of us is not just for Government.

The challenge is not just for the institutions

And the challenge is not even just for civil society, the media and or even Montenegrin society.

The challenge is for all of us, is demonstrating a clear and resolute commitment to eradicating all forms of discrimination.

As your Constitution notes well: “The commitment of the citizens of Montenegro to live in a state in which the basic values are freedom, peace, tolerance, respect for human rights and liberties, multiculturalism, democracy and the rule of law.”

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you very much and I wish you a successful two days of deliberations.

**ENDS**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**