

**ANNOTATED AGENDA**

Original: ENGLISH

**OSCE High-Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination  
Astana, 29-30 June 2010**

Throughout the last decade, the OSCE has attached great importance to fighting intolerance and promoting mutual respect and understanding, including by means of intercultural and interreligious dialogue. The OSCE has recognized in several Ministerial Decisions that tolerance and non-discrimination are important elements in the promotion of human rights and democratic values and that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security.

The commitments of the OSCE participating States in the area of tolerance and non-discrimination, as well as freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, are reflected in the Helsinki Final Act of 1975; the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe; the 1990 Copenhagen Document on the Human Dimension of the CSCE; the 1999 Charter for European Security; the OSCE Ministerial Council Decisions adopted in Porto (MC(10).DEC/6), Maastricht (MC.DEC/4/03), Sofia (MC.DEC/12/04), Ljubljana (MC.DEC/10/05), Brussels (MC.DEC/13/06), Madrid (MC.DEC/10/07), Helsinki (MC.DEC/6/08), and Athens (MC.DEC/8/09 and MC.DEC/9/09); and Permanent Council Decisions Nos. 607, 621 and 633.

In accordance with Ministerial Council Decision 10/09, the OSCE will hold a **High-Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination** in order to sustain political awareness of the issues and, thereby, promote effective implementation of commitments. The conference will build on the outcomes of past conferences, including the 2003 Vienna Conferences on Anti-Semitism and on Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, the April 2004 Berlin Conference on Anti-Semitism, the June 2004 Paris Meeting on the Relationship between Racism, Xenophobic and Anti-Semitic Propaganda on the Internet and Hate Crimes, the September 2004 Brussels Conference on Tolerance and the Fight Against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, the June 2005 Cordoba Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance, and the High-Level Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding held in Bucharest in 2007.

The 2010 conference will provide an important opportunity to review and assess implementation of the commitments related to tolerance and non-discrimination, including the most recent commitments under the Athens Ministerial Decision on Hate Crime. The conference will also provide an opportunity to review steps taken to follow up the 2007 conference and assess the progress made since then. The conference will also serve as an opportunity for participating States and civil society to present examples of good initiatives, and to discuss how OSCE institutions and other intergovernmental organizations have supported their efforts to combat discrimination and promote mutual respect and understanding.

**Objectives of the Conference:**

1. Review steps taken to follow up the 2007 conference and assess the progress made since then.
2. Review and assess implementation of commitments in the area of tolerance and non-discrimination, including the most recent commitments under the Helsinki and the Athens Ministerial Decisions on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination. This review will take into account the interdependence of commitments on tolerance and non-discrimination and fundamental rights and freedoms, including freedom of movement, freedom of religion or belief, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and freedom of association.

3. Exchange good practices aimed at combating intolerance and promoting mutual respect and understanding, including in the area of legislation and law enforcement, education, the media and dialogue between communities. Each session will take account of gender issues.

4. Exchange good practices with regard to international co-operation in this area, including co-operation involving OSCE structures and other intergovernmental organizations;

5. Identify recommendations for the OSCE participating States on combating intolerance and promoting mutual respect and understanding;

### **Organization of the Conference**

The agenda will include a ceremonial opening, an opening plenary session, discussions in plenary sessions, a closing plenary session, a summary session and a closing ceremony.

The conference will be preceded by a preparatory meeting for civil society aimed at reviewing co-operation between civil society and public authorities in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination and formulating specific recommendations for consideration at the conference. These recommendations will be presented by a civil society representative during the conference's plenary sessions.

### **Agenda and Timetable**

#### **Tuesday, 29 June 2010**

10.00                      Opening session: Welcoming remarks and general statements.

Official opening of the conference and keynote speeches: Challenges in implementing OSCE commitments in the area of tolerance and non-discrimination.

As host, the **President of Kazakhstan, H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev**, will officially open the conference.

#### **10:20 - 11:30 Opening plenary session: Combating discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding**

Moderator: OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Secretary of State – Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan H.E. **Minister Kanat Saudabayev**

Opening remarks by

- Mr. Jorge Sampaio, UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations
- Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- Amb. Knut Vollebaek, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities
- Amb. Janez Lenarčič, Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Followed by:

Formal statements by high level delegates

- H.E. Remigijus Šimašius, Minister of Justice of Lithuania
- H.E. Mehmet Aydin, State Minister of Turkey
- H.E. Yacov Margi, Minister of Religious Services of Israel
- H.E. Elzbieta Radziszewska, Secretary of State in the Chancellery of the Prime Minister of Poland, the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment

## **Part 1: Forms of intolerance and discrimination**

### **11.45 – 13.15 Plenary session 1: Combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims**

OSCE participating States have undertaken commitments to fight intolerance and discrimination against Muslims, along with other forms of racism and xenophobia. However, despite the efforts of participating States to prevent and respond to hatred and hostility against Muslims, this phenomenon continues to exist in various forms, including discriminatory practices, threats, assaults, desecration of mosques and cemeteries, and vandalism. The session will explore the nature and scale of anti-Muslim incidents in the OSCE region. In particular, it will look at whether the phenomenon is being adequately identified, recorded and reported as numerous OSCE commitments prescribe. The session will focus on the implementation of OSCE commitments with a view to preventing and combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims.

The context of violent manifestations of intolerance against Muslims will be explored. In particular, the impact of specific policies and of intolerant speech, including on the Internet, could be discussed. The issue of discriminatory political rhetoric and public policies on both Muslim communities and the general climate of public opinion could be debated. Strategies on how to prevent and counter intolerant discourse should be explored with respect to freedom of expression. The discussion could also focus on policies for the integration of migrants and for respect for minorities in terms of cultural and religious diversity, security measures in the fight against terrorism while respecting international human rights standards, and matters pertaining to freedom of religion or belief.

This session will look at how positive political leadership and responsible media reporting can contribute to a non-discriminatory and unbiased portrayal of Muslims and increased understanding and cohesion in society.

This session will address the challenges Muslims face in being accepted as full and equal members of their respective societies and discuss specific measures to increase integration and mutual respect, including partnerships between government and civil society. The role of education in fighting prejudice and intolerance against Muslims and in promoting mutual respect and understanding will be explored. It will also look at the possible ways and means to be taken in the OSCE in order to increase mutual engagement and accommodation, including measures that might be taken by Muslims themselves.

Moderator:

Mr. Doudou Diene, former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Intolerance

Introducers:

Amb.Ömür Orhun, Adviser and Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Prof. Cheikh Bouamrane, President of the High Islamic Council of Algeria

Amb. Adil Akhmetov, Personal Representative on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

- How participating States are following up on the implementation of OSCE Ministerial Decision 9/09 on Hate Crime, OSCE Permanent Council Decision 621 on Tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, as well as the other related commitments established in Ministerial Council Decisions between 2003 and 2007.
- The extent to which OSCE states are fulfilling their commitments to ensure and promote freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief.
- Measures that can be undertaken to further support OSCE participating States in effectively implementing their commitments to combat intolerance and discrimination against Muslims and to promote respect and mutual understanding.
- The extent to which additional commitments to prevent and combat intolerance against Muslims are necessary. Ways that participating States can follow up on the results of the OSCE Chairmanship Conference on Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims that took place in 2007 in Cordoba.
- Presenting and discussing good practices of governments, institutions and civil society in monitoring, responding to, and preventing manifestations of intolerance and discrimination against Muslims, through legislative and administrative measures, educational and awareness-raising means, intercultural-dialogue initiatives and providing assistance for victims.
- How OSCE executive structures, including ODIHR, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, the OSCE field operations and the Personal Representative of the CiO on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, can provide support to OSCE participating States in implementing their commitments to combat intolerance against Muslims.
- How the effectiveness of the actions of the Personal Representative of the CiO on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims can be increased.
- How co-operation with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights can be made more effective.

### **13.15 – 14.30 Lunch on behalf of the CiO**

### **14.30 – 16.00 Plenary session 2: Combating Anti-Semitism**

Since the Berlin Conference in 2004, the OSCE participating States have acknowledged that anti-Semitism has assumed new forms and expressions that, along with other forms of intolerance, pose a threat to democracy and to overall security in the OSCE region and beyond. Despite a comprehensive body of relevant OSCE commitments aimed at combating the recurrence of hostility and hatred towards Jews, anti-Semitism can be seen, at present, in the

form of threats; assaults; desecration of synagogues, cemeteries or Holocaust memorials; and vandalism. The session will explore the nature and scale of anti-Semitic incidents in the OSCE region. In particular, it will look at whether this phenomenon is being adequately identified, recorded and reported as numerous OSCE commitments prescribe. The session will focus on the implementation of OSCE commitments with a view to preventing and combating anti-Semitism in all its forms.

The context in which anti-Semitic acts take place will also be explored. The occurrence of anti-Semitic discourse, including on the Internet, will be discussed. In particular, public denial of the Holocaust, as well as relativizing or trivializing it, will be discussed. Preventive and responsive measures to anti-Semitic discourse and Holocaust denial will be explored, including co-operation between governments and civil society, as well as the media or the Internet industry. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss how international developments or political issues, including those in Israel or elsewhere in the Middle East, have an impact on anti-Semitism. This session will look at how positive political leadership and responsible media reporting can contribute to a non-discriminatory and unbiased portrayal of Jews and increased understanding and cohesion in society. Strategies on how to prevent and counter intolerant discourse should be explored with respect to freedom of expression

Finally, the session will aim to identify areas possibly requiring increased intervention and response by governments, such as anti-Semitism among young people. The role of education in fighting prejudice and stereotypes and promoting mutual respect and understanding will be explored. In particular, co-operation with and across communities, civil society and the media will be discussed.

Moderator:

Mr. Gidon van Emden, European Jewish Information Centre, Belgium

Introducers:

- Mr. Dan Tichon, Chair of the International Taskforce on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research
- Mr. Rabbi Andrew Baker, Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism.

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

- How participating States are following up on the implementation of OSCE Ministerial Decision 9/09 on Hate Crime, OSCE Permanent Council Decision 607 and 621 on Tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, as well as the other related commitments established in Ministerial Council Decisions between 2003 and 2007.
- Measures that can be undertaken to further support OSCE participating States in effectively implementing their commitments to combat anti-Semitism and to promote respect and mutual understanding.
- The extent to which additional commitments to prevent and combat anti-Semitism are necessary.
- Presenting and discussing good practices of governments, institutions and civil society in monitoring, responding to, and preventing manifestations of anti-Semitism, including Holocaust denial, through legislative and administrative measures, educational and awareness-raising means, intercultural-dialogue initiatives and providing assistance for victims.

- How OSCE executive structures, including ODIHR, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, the OSCE field operations and the Personal Representative of the CiO on Combating Anti-Semitism can provide support to OSCE participating States in implementing their commitments to combat anti-Semitism.
- How the effectiveness of the actions of the Personal Representative of the CiO on Combating Anti-Semitism can be increased.
- How co-operation with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Task Force on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and EU missions can be made more effective.

**16.00 – 17.30 Plenary session 3: Combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination, also focusing on intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions**

Racism, xenophobia, intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions continue to be present in many parts of the OSCE region despite numerous OSCE commitments addressing these issues and sustained efforts by participating States to combat these phenomena. Racism, xenophobia, intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions relates to the use of discriminatory, intolerant speech and stereotypes, including by the media, and can take the form of threats, assaults, vandalism and desecration of places of worship, cemeteries, and memorials.

This session will discuss trends and responses to racism, xenophobia, discrimination, including against Christians and members of other religions. The discussion will highlight both challenges and good practices of governments and civil society in working to combat such manifestations of intolerance. The perceived impact of contextual issues such as the global economic downturn and austerity measures upon vulnerable members of societies, including migrants, refugees and minorities, could be explored. Solutions for how to mitigate the potentially harmful effects of these developments upon the security and stability of OSCE participating States could be suggested. The context of intolerance and discrimination, such as representations, stereotypes and prejudices, and their dissemination through the media, including the Internet, will be discussed. The positive role political figures and community leaders can play to counter negative perceptions of minorities and to strengthen cohesion in societies will be highlighted. Strategies on how to prevent and counter intolerant discourse should be explored with respect to freedom of expression.

Particular attention will be devoted to the prevalence of hate-motivated attacks and discrimination targeting Roma and Sinti across the OSCE region. In more general terms, the marginalization and the segregation of Roma and Sinti, including their access to employment, education, housing and health, will be explored. Equally, the occurrence of intolerant speech against Roma and the use of stereotypes and prejudice by political figures, the media, including on the Internet, will be reviewed. The session will provide an important opportunity to review national experiences and practices with regard to the implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area and efforts undertaken by participating States to combat prejudices against Roma and Sinti, based in particular on the findings of ODIHR's status report (*Implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti Within the OSCE Area*) published in 2008. This session should be aimed at finding sustainable ways to integrate Roma and Sinti.

Another focus of the session will be discrimination and intolerance against Christians and members of other religions. Going back to the declaration of the OSCE Chair in Cordoba in 2005, OSCE states have acknowledged the importance of intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions and have undertaken a number of commitments to fight this specific phenomenon. The connection between intolerance against Christians and members of other religions and the right to freedom of religion or belief will be explored. Intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions may take the form of denial by state authorities of the right to practise a particular religion. Therefore, this session will also look at how efforts to promote freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief can support actions to combat religious-based discrimination, and intolerance and discrimination more generally.

Moderator: Father Vsevolod Chaplin, Chair of Church Society Relations, Moscow Patriarchate, Member of ODIHR Advisory Council on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Russian Federation

Introducers:

Mr. Stephanos Stavros, Executive Secretary, European Commission against Racism and Intolerance

Prof. Introvigne, Managing Director of the CESNUR (Center for Studies on New Religions)

Mr. Mario Mauro, Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination, also focusing on intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

- How participating States are following up on the implementation of OSCE Ministerial Decision 9/09 on Hate Crime, OSCE Permanent Council Decision 607 and 621 on Tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, as well as other related commitments established in Ministerial Council Decisions between 2003 and 2007.
- How states are ensuring the effective implementation of their commitments adopted with the 2003 Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area and in particular Chapter III on Combating Racism and Discrimination. How ODIHR can enhance its assistance to participating States for more effective and efficient implementation of the Action Plan and relevant MC Decisions (MC Decision No. 6/08; MC Decision No. 8/09). Steps that should be taken to address discrimination and intolerance against Roma, in particular forms known as anti-Gypsyism and anti-Tziganism. How participating States can follow up on the 10-11 July 2008 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Sustainable Policies of Roma and Sinti Integration and the 9-10 July 2009 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Freedom of Religion or Belief.
- The extent to which OSCE states are fulfilling their commitments to ensure and promote freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief. What the main challenges are.
- Measures that can be undertaken to further support OSCE participating States in effectively implementing their commitments to combat racism, xenophobia, and discrimination targeting, in particular, Roma and Sinti, migrants, refugees, asylum

seekers and minorities, as well as Christians and members of other religions, and to promote respect and mutual understanding.

- The extent to which additional commitments to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia, intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions are needed.
- Presenting and discussing good practices of governments, institutions and civil society in monitoring, responding to, and preventing manifestations of discrimination, racism, xenophobia and intolerance against Christians and members of other religions, through legislative and administrative measures, educational and awareness-raising means, intercultural-dialogue initiatives and providing assistance for victims.
- How OSCE participating States can be supported in their efforts to establish or maintain national institutions or specialized bodies to combat intolerance and discrimination, as well as to develop and implement national strategies and action plans in this field.
- How OSCE executive structures, including ODIHR, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, and OSCE field operations, as well as the Personal Representative of the CiO on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions, can provide support to OSCE participating States in implementing their commitments to combat racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance.
- How the role and activities of ODIHR’s Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief –protecting freedom of religion while respecting religious identity in a pluralistic society, offering technical assistance to participating States regarding legislation or governmental policies in order to overcome intolerance and discrimination against members of religions, in line with MC Decisions 10/05 and 13/06 – can be enhanced.
- How the effectiveness of the actions of the Personal Representative of the CiO on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions can be increased.
- How co-operation with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and EU missions can be made more effective.

**17.40 – 18.00 Departure and arrival of the participants to the Central Park**

**18.00 – 18.45 Visit of the Ethno Village**

**19.00 – 20.30 Dinner on behalf of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office**

**Part 2: The way forward: Preventing and responding to intolerance, including hate crimes. Promoting mutual respect and understanding, including through gender perspective.**

**09.00-10.30 Plenary session 4: The role of legislation, law enforcement, data collection, and civil society in combating and preventing intolerance and discrimination, including hate crimes**

Participating States have repeatedly condemned intolerance, discrimination and hate crimes and pledged to take action against them. Although the term “hate crimes” did not appear in OSCE commitments until the Maastricht Ministerial Council Meeting of 2003, the Organization has a



long history of dealing with the issue, having expressed concerns as early as 1990 about crimes based on prejudice, discrimination, hostility or hatred. Today, there are a broad range of commitments against hate crimes, including to train police to respond to hate crimes, to review legislation, to assist civil society efforts and to collect reliable data. OSCE decisions have also stressed the importance of political representatives speaking out against hate-motivated crimes. In 2009, the OSCE Ministerial Council adopted its first decision specifically devoted to the problem of hate crimes. All of these commitments recognize the gravity of the phenomenon and its potential to sow the seeds of wider violence and international conflict.

ODIHR's report *Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region: Incidents and Responses - Annual Report 2008* highlights the lack of adequate and reliable data on hate crimes. Although participating States and NGOs have made significant efforts to collect data on crimes and incidents, significant gaps in data collection continue to be a major obstacle to understanding the scope and nature of hate crimes in the OSCE region. This also plays a more significant role in hindering the development of effective measures and strategies to prevent and respond to hate-motivated acts. This session will explore what the main challenges are to implementing data-collection systems and how participating States can be supported in this endeavour.

ODIHR's report also highlights that, since 2007, many OSCE participating States have reported improving their legislation dealing with both discrimination and hate crimes. The session will look at whether and how legislation can be implemented effectively, drawing also on the conclusions of the 2009 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Effective Implementation of Hate Crime Legislation. In particular, the session will explore measures to ensure that law-enforcement and judicial systems are properly equipped to identify, investigate and respond to hate crimes and discrimination. Specific attention will be devoted to capacity-building initiatives, as this is an area that has been stressed in recent years.

The challenge posed by violent organized hate groups, in particular neo-Nazi movements, and the cross-border element to this problem could be discussed. The need for international co-operation, as well as focused police efforts, particularly to deal with the problem of hate groups' use of the Internet, could be explored. Discussions should take place against the background of the necessity to respect the freedom of expression. In this regard, innovative approaches involving public-private partnerships could be explored.

The relationship between the phenomenon of hate crimes and extremism and terrorism could also be discussed. Even if lessons can be learned from experience with these issues on how to combat violent hate groups, the response to hate crime and hate speech should not be used to curtail freedom of expression.

Moderator: Mr. Paul Giannasi, Police Superintendent, Race Confidence and Justice Unit, United Kingdom

Introducers:

Mr. Paul Wille, Vice President of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly

Dr. Alice Wong, Member of Parliament of Canada, Parliamentary Secretary for Multiculturalism

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

- How participating States are following up on implementation of OSCE Ministerial Decision 9/09 on Hate Crime, OSCE Permanent Council Decisions 607 and 621 on

Tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, as well as the other related commitments established by Ministerial Council Decisions between 2003 and 2007.

- In particular, the extent to which participating States have undertaken efforts to strengthen legislation related to hate crime and combating discrimination. The progress that has been made by participating States on the elaboration of national institutional mechanisms to collect reliable data and information on hate crimes and what steps they have taken to inform ODIHR about existing legislation regarding crimes related to intolerance and discrimination. The steps that participating States have taken to educate law-enforcement officials on hate crime legislation and to stress the importance of implementing such laws. What the police can do to ensure that communities feel safer in reporting crimes committed against them.
- How participating States can follow up on to the 4-5 May 2009 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Hate Crimes - Effective Implementation of Legislation.
- Measures that can be undertaken to further support OSCE participating States in effectively implementing their commitments to adopt and implement legislation combating intolerance, discrimination and in particular hate crimes. How ODIHR's resources such as *Hate Crime Law: A Practical Guide* and *Preventing and Responding to Hate Crimes: A Resource Guide for NGOs in the OSCE Region* can be increasingly used.
- How participating States can improve their understanding of the relationship between hate on the Internet and hate-motivated incidents. How states can promote ways of using the media, in particular the Internet, that are conducive to a climate of tolerance. What role public-private partnerships could play in this regard.
- Presenting and discussing good practices of governments, institutions and civil society in monitoring, responding to, and preventing manifestations of discrimination and intolerance, in particular hate crimes, through legislative and administrative measures, capacity-building measures, outreach and providing assistance for victims.
- How OSCE executive structures, including ODIHR, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, and OSCE field operations, as well as the Personal Representatives of the CiO on Tolerance, can provide support to OSCE participating States in implementing their commitments to combat racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance.
- How co-operation with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, the Venice Commission, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and EU missions can be made more effective.

#### **10.45-12.15 Plenary session 5: The role of education to promote mutual understanding and respect for diversity according to the existing OSCE commitments**

Education to prepare young people to live in increasingly pluralistic societies can be fundamental in terms of promoting mutual respect and understanding and countering racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, and other forms of intolerance, including against Muslims, Christians and members of other religions. Remembrance of the Holocaust is an essential element of such education. Efforts to foster an appreciation for the positive contribution of cultural and religious diversity to society, such as awareness-raising campaigns, intercultural educational initiatives and inter-religious dialogue play a key role in maintaining social cohesion and mutual understanding. Education systems also have a responsibility to address specific

national or local manifestations of discrimination and intolerance – whether historical or current – and to combat prejudice and negative stereotypes. Formal curricula, textbooks and supplementary materials, extra-curricular activities, the school environment itself, and teacher-training programmes are all crucial instruments in achieving positive results.

This session will highlight educational practices within participating States that are aimed at creating an appreciation for cultural and religious diversity. Ways to evaluate the effectiveness of educational programmes in changing attitudes, challenging stereotypes and prejudices and promoting intercultural dialogue and understanding will be discussed, as well as measures to share identified good practices throughout the OSCE area.

This session will also examine the progress made by participating States in implementing OSCE commitments to promote educational programmes for promoting tolerance, mutual understanding, remembrance of, and education about, the Holocaust.

Moderator: Mr. Philippe Kridelka, Executive Director, Office of the Director-General, UNESCO

Introducers:

Prof. Antonio Alonso Marcos, San Pablo University, Spain

Dr. Nawal El Saadawi, Winner of North-South Prize of the Council of Europe, Egypt

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

- How participating States are following up on implementation of OSCE Permanent Council Decisions 607 and 621 on Tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, as well as the other related commitments established in Ministerial Council Decisions between 2003 and 2007.
- The extent to which OSCE participating States have implemented educational programmes for combating racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, and other forms of intolerance, including against Muslims, Christians and members of other religions, as well as remembrance of, and education about, the Holocaust.
- The best practices of OSCE participating States in supporting the promotion of mutual respect and understanding through education. How existing models and recommendations can be effectively implemented, evaluated and assessed.
- How education can be used to teach about religion in line with international human rights standards, in particular, those concerning freedom of religion or belief and non-discrimination.
- How OSCE executive structures, including ODIHR, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, the High Commissioner on National Minorities, and OSCE field operations, as well as the Personal Representatives of the CiO on Tolerance, provide support to OSCE participating States in implementing their commitments in the field of education with a view to promoting mutual understanding and respect for diversity.
- How co-operation with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Task Force on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, the Venice Commission, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the Council of Europe Directorate for Education, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and EU missions can be made more effective.

## **14.00 – 15.30 Plenary session 6: Addressing public manifestations of intolerance, in accordance with the OSCE commitments and promoting understanding through open dialogue in the media, including the Internet**

In 2005, the OSCE Ministerial Council recognized that bias and prejudice are rooted in a wider social context. This re-emphasized previous commitments and tasked states with adopting measures to counter prejudice and to raise awareness. It also required states to take steps to counter xenophobic stereotypes, intolerance and discrimination without endangering or unduly restricting freedom of information and expression and while ensuring a free flow of information. Any activities aimed at supporting tolerant and non-discriminatory attitudes in public discourse will be based on a human rights perspective that requires respect for plurality and freedom of expression.

In 2006 and 2007, OSCE participating States expressed deep concern at the use of racist, xenophobic and discriminatory public discourse, and particularly the rise of political parties and movements advocating violence. Ministerial Decisions 10/05 and 13/06 stressed the importance of political representatives to take a leadership role and speak out against hate-motivated acts and incidents. They also encouraged the media to use its influence to counter, rather than exacerbate, misperceptions and prejudices communicated by various actors.

The 2006 and 2007 Ministerial Council Meetings recognized the unfolding nature of intolerant instances of speech and recommended more nuanced approaches to this issue while acknowledging the participating States' duty to ensure that the right to freedom of expression was not unduly encroached upon when implementing measures aimed at protecting particular groups who remain targets of intolerant speech on the Internet.

Mass media represents a powerful tool to shape the public perception of ethnic, religious, or other groups in societies. The media, however, can also be a powerful tool for creating and promoting an environment that is conducive to embracing diversity and fostering societal cohesion. During this session, the role of the media in countering misperceptions will be discussed along with different self-regulatory measures that can be undertaken to enhance professionalism and adherence to ethical standards among journalists, including the adoption of voluntary professional codes of conduct by journalists and editors.

This session will also examine the role of Internet-based educational programmes and activities, in particular in the framework of sustainable strategies and school curricula to counter misperceptions, prejudices, ignorance, hate-motivated speech, or other offensive content on the Internet.

This session will finally examine the positive role that political representatives and public officials can play in defusing tensions within societies by speaking out against hate-motivated acts and by recognizing the positive contributions that all individuals can make to a pluralistic society.

Moderator: Ms. Dunja Mijatovic, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Introducers:

Mr. Dainius Radzevicius, Chairman of the Lithuanian Journalists' Union and Chairman of the Lithuanian Council of Radio and Television

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

- How participating States are implementing OSCE Ministerial Decision 9/09 on Hate Crime, OSCE Permanent Council Decision 633 on Promoting Tolerance and Media Freedom on the Internet, as well as the other related commitments in other Ministerial Council Decisions.
- Presentation of the main recommendations of the meetings organized by ODIHR pursuant to Ministerial Decision 9/09 regarding the relationship between hate on the Internet and hate-motivated incidents.
- How the media across participating States can be improve the public perception of diversity within our societies. How the media can facilitate inclusive participation in public discourse. How employment diversity can contribute to solving the issue.
- How governments and the media can contribute positively to public perceptions and attitudes.
- How participating States can work to effectively combat rhetoric that incites violent acts of hatred against immigrant, migrant, Roma and other communities by both mainstream and extremist political parties, movements and groups, while respecting the freedom of expression.
- How everyone’s freedom of expression can be protected in order to foster understanding and respect for diversity.
- Explore whether there is a link between racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic discourse and the commission of crimes motivated by racist, anti-Semitic or other related biases.
- How OSCE executive structures, including ODIHR, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, the High Commissioner on National Minorities, and OSCE field operations, as well as the Personal Representatives of the CiO on Tolerance, can provide support to OSCE participating States in implementing their commitments in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination while respecting freedom of expression and freedom of the media.
- How co-operation with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Task Force on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, the Venice Commission, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the Council of Europe Directorate for Education, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and EU missions can be made more effective?

**15.45–17.15 Plenary session 7: Strategies for promoting tolerance and understanding, inter-ethnic and intercultural dialogue, including its religious dimension, in the OSCE area**

In 2005, the OSCE participating States adopted a decision recalling the importance of promoting and facilitating intercultural and inter-religious dialogue and partnerships aimed at tolerance, mutual respect and understanding and freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief at both the national and the international levels. This decision expressed a set of values that had been repeatedly affirmed since the inception of the OSCE and stressed in major OSCE documents such as the 1989 Vienna Concluding Document and the 1992 Helsinki Summit document. More recently, Ministerial Council Decisions have emphasized the “importance of a continued and strengthened interfaith and intercultural dialogue to promote greater tolerance, respect and mutual understanding” (MC DEC. 4/03) and have committed “participating States to raise awareness of the value of cultural and religious diversity as a source of mutual enrichment of

societies and to recognize the importance of integration with respect for cultural and religious diversity as a key element to promote mutual respect and understanding” (MC DEC. 13/06).

This session will focus on the practical steps undertaken by participating States and civil society actors to promote tolerance and dialogue. These can range from making various religions or beliefs, cultures, ethnic or national minorities better known in order to foster greater mutual understanding to creating the conditions for dialogue among representatives of different communities and between the latter and the local or central government. Participating States can also facilitate inter-religious dialogue between different communities and support civil society actors engaged in activities aimed at promoting tolerance and fostering intercultural, interethnic and inter-religious dialogue.

This session will focus on intercultural, inter-religious and interethnic partnerships as a means to promote more positive public and political discourse and to react to negative portrayals of different communities. In the context of respecting free speech, the session will be forward-looking in its approach and will identify ways in which the media, political and civil society leaders can be mobilized to counter negative images and help promote a positive portrayal of the groups that make up today’s diverse societies. Music, sport, youth and environmental activities and programmes will also be examined as a vehicle for forging cross-cultural, -religious and -ethnic alliances and partnerships between different communities.

Finally, as a security organization, the OSCE has a specific role to prevent conflicts and to foster post-conflict reconciliation. Dialogue is a crucial tool in this respect. It is the means through which immediate tensions that could lead to conflict can be diffused, differences and disagreements discussed, misunderstandings and misconceptions corrected, compromises identified and solutions negotiated. Without intercultural, inter-religious and interethnic dialogue, tensions may grow to the point where they create a climate in which some will perceive violence as the only way of resolving problems. But dialogue alone will not prevent conflicts or bring about post-conflict reconciliation. It is of fundamental importance that governments take concrete steps and carefully develop measures designed to create and preserve inclusive societies based on respect for cultural and religious diversity, human rights and democratic principles. An inclusive society in turn enables the individual to participate and to identify him/herself with the community as a whole. Such identification is a key factor in the prevention of future conflicts and in advancing post-conflict reconciliation.

Moderator:

Ms. Eva Biaudet, Ombudsman for Minorities, Finland

Introducers:

Mr. Petar Antic, Assistant Minister for Human and Minority Rights, Serbia

Father Justo Lacunza Balda, Rector Emeritus of the Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies of Rome (PISAI)

Mr. Eraly Tugzhanov, Head of the Assembly of Nationalities of Kazakhstan

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

- How participating States are following up on the implementation of OSCE Ministerial Council Decisions related to interethnic and intercultural dialogue,

- including with respect to religion (in particular MC DEC. 6/02, MC DEC. 4/03, MC DEC. 12/04, MC DEC. 10/05 and MC DEC. 13/06).
- The extent to which OSCE participating States have implemented programmes and activities for establishing or strengthening interethnic and intercultural dialogue, including with respect to religion. How existing models and recommendations can be effectively implemented, evaluated and assessed.
  - Existing strategies aimed at promoting tolerance and dialogue in the OSCE area, including those initiated by international organizations, national and local authorities, civil society and the private sector, as well as the lessons learned from these initiatives. How the media can give visibility to initiatives aimed at promoting tolerance and dialogue.
  - How education can be used to teach about religious and cultural heritage in line with international human rights standards, in particular, those concerning freedom of religion or belief and non-discrimination.
  - How local governments can promote tolerance and dialogue. How intercultural, inter-religious and interethnic partnerships and dialogue can be developed as a means to combat prejudice and stereotypes in public and political discourse.
  - How coalition-building across diverse cultural and religious communities and civil society groups can be initiated or strengthened.
  - How OSCE executive structures, including ODIHR, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, the High Commissioner on National Minorities, and OSCE field operations, as well as the Personal Representatives of the CiO on Tolerance, can provide support to OSCE participating States in their efforts to establish or to strengthen interethnic and intercultural dialogue, including with respect to religion.
  - How co-operation with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Task Force on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the Council of Europe Directorate for Education, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and EU missions can be made more effective.

### **17.15 – 18.00: Closing plenary session**

In this session, the moderators will summarize discussions and recommendations made in the sessions on how the OSCE participating States and OSCE structures can further strengthen their efforts to combat discrimination and promote mutual respect and understanding. There will also be an opportunity for responses from the floor.

In order to more accurately reflect the results of the conference, participants are encouraged to submit, in writing, to the Chairman-in-Office any recommendations they wish to make. It would be helpful if participants could specify who the recommendations are intended for, for example, individual OSCE participating States, the OSCE as a whole, OSCE structures and institutions or OSCE field operations.

### **Closing ceremony**

Official closing of the conference.