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Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT REGARDING THE AGENDA FOR THE
2008 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING
717TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
19 JUNE 2008**

Canada values the active participation of NGOs in OSCE meetings, in accordance with the principles agreed by the participating States.

The dialogue and interaction between NGOs and governments that goes on at the annual HDIM is an example of the value of opening up to civil society.

The principles agreed at Helsinki 1992 are clear and in our view sufficient to govern NGO participation, and they have worked well: they exclude from participation only “persons or organizations which resort to the use of violence or publicly condone terrorism or the use of violence”.

We place our trust in the CiO on the application of these principles to particular cases.

We are surprised that Turkmenistan is tying their acceptance of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting agenda to the issue of participation of certain individuals in human dimension events or to a review of the principles on NGO participation.

This is all the more surprising that this position was never voiced to other participating States in the context of discussions of the HDIM agenda.

All other participating States were ready to agree to the HDIM agenda, after lengthy discussions.

We ask that Turkmenistan reconsider its position, so that the agenda can be adopted and ODIHR can move in earnest to prepare for this event. We have noted concern expressed about the lack of NGO participation, and the longer we wait to begin preparations, the more difficult it will be to attract both Government and NGO participants from our home countries.