

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Warsaw 2-13 October 2006

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Working session 11
Discussion of human dimension activities

Intervention by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Mr. Moderator,

The running session represents unique opportunity for all of us to once again focus our attention on outstanding work on human dimension and democratization through reviewing current state of play and elaborating future activities. We believe lively and robust discussions will enable us to come up with useful recommendations that will further strengthen the capacity of ODIHR and other OSCE institutions in their endeavors to assist us in implementing our respective commitments.

ODIHR as a leading OSCE institution in the human dimension has long been an effective instrument in monitoring the implementation of human dimension commitments of the Participating States. Its world-renowned reputation in election observation and enormous capacity in the field of human rights and democratization has served an essential tool in democracy building for many countries in the OSCE area.

In a number of cases the ODIHR plays a role of the lead agency, coordinating activities and distribution of labour of international presences in the field through the constructive engagement of the institution in these processes. We are convinced that the programmes and overall activities could further bear fruit and yield concrete results if they are demand-driven and tailored to the specific needs of the Participating States. To this effect, in order to define those needs, continuation of close interaction and active collaboration with the Governments and field operations take on vital importance.

We deem the election observation and technical assistance as to be one of the most relevant and vital activities of the OSCE in general, and ODIHR particularly and the Organization should maintain its leading comparative advantage in this field. We support the recommendation to review and complement the existing standards, possibly in a form of the "*Copenhagen Plus*" document, which could incorporate some additional necessary values and help to plug the possible existing, holes.

ODIHR should further strengthen its assistance to participating states in human capacity building. Talking about the areas, trafficking in human beings, gender equality, human rights in the armed forces, tolerance and non-discrimination, placing special emphasis on education respecting tolerance should have a central place in the programme activities of the ODIHR for the years to come. ODIHR should demonstrate its important niche and

capacity in lending its assistance for the states to address their shortcomings in respective fields.

Another area where we should devote our attention is the coordination with the other active international organizations with the similar human rights agenda. The strengthening of such collaboration and interaction is essential to avoid duplications and overlapping thus maximizing the effectiveness of the human dimension activities. Moreover, the positive experience of the other international actors in the areas, such as the good governance and the rule of law could well be used in the project work for the upcoming years.

To wrap up, Mr. Moderator, all-important nature of the implementation of commitments by participating states from one hand and necessity of close monitoring of the implementation by OSCE bodies from the other, requires us to invest concerted efforts, to redress the possible shortcomings and tide over the emerging difficulties in the spirit of cooperation and collaboration. It is our firm belief that assistance of OSCE bodies and particularly ODIHR in democracy building is important and their work is commendable and we hope that the human dimension activities of said institutions will suit the needs of the participating states in the most effective manner from this time onward.

I thank you, Mr. Moderator.