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**Statement by UNHCR at the Human Dimension Session of the 2010 Review  
Conference, Warsaw, Poland  
(Working Session 2, Intolerance against Migrants, 8 October 2010)**

Mr. President,

Thank you for giving UNHCR the opportunity to address the OSCE today during its working session entitled “Intolerance against Migrants.”

The manifestations of racism and xenophobia are not directed against asylum-seekers or refugees, *per se*, but against non-nationals in general. Extremist political parties, movements and groups often rely on intolerance, discrimination, exclusion and xenophobia, thereby undermining the principle of non-discrimination. They frequently incite discrimination against specific groups of individuals, creating or exacerbating racist or xenophobic attitudes by designating certain vulnerable groups, such as refugees, asylum-seekers and members of minorities as the main source of the problems causing anxiety among the population. This may lead to the perpetration of racist and xenophobic crimes against migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and other vulnerable groups.

In this context, OSCE/ODIHR plays a crucial role in promoting legislative and policy measures, including education, awareness-raising and other initiatives for the effective prevention and response to hate crimes. The reporting and collecting of data in relation of racist and xenophobic crimes is also helpful to develop effective policies and programmes to deal with racially-motivated crimes and incidents and monitor the effectiveness of the measures taken. UNHCR Field Offices in South Eastern Europe in particular contribute to ODIHR’s Annual Hate Crime Report.

As set out in UNHCR’s note “Combating Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and related Intolerance through a strategic approach” concerted efforts and partnerships among all relevant stakeholders are essential for such initiatives to have the required impact. UNHCR calls upon the OSCE Member States to recognize racist and xenophobic crimes and address them through legislative and other measures. The Office will continue to analyze these issues and identify solutions through a constructive dialogue with States and will in particular offer its technical expertise in the field of refugee protection in the OSCE region. Its close cooperation with ODIHR, in particular in the field of training, capacity-building and monitoring and

reporting of hate crimes is only a first concrete step into the right direction. We are looking forward to intensifying this partnership and the cooperation with OSCE Member States.

Thank you.