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**Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Warsaw, 29 September - 10 October 2008**

**Closing remarks by Ambassador Antti Turunen,
Permanent Representative of Finland to the OSCE**

Dear Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The main aim of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting is to discuss and review implementation of OSCE human dimension commitments and to look at ways to enhance compliance with these commitments. Within the two weeks time here in Warsaw we have had the opportunity to discuss at large our human dimension interests including possible recommendations for the future.

Indeed, on the one hand, our human dimension commitments also face new challenges - for example related to technological and social developments - which we have to take into account when further developing and strengthening our commitments. On the other hand, these challenges should not provide any excuse to shortcomings in the implementation of existing commitments. This calls for forward-looking and action-oriented discussion by all stakeholders. Finland has during its Chairmanship stressed the full implementation of the human rights commitments by the participating States.

In the endeavour to ensure respect and promotion of human rights in our societies, it is crucial to build partnerships among States, international organisations and the civil society. I am convinced that our meeting has further supported this goal. The broad and active participation of non-governmental organizations in human dimension meetings is an achievement for which the OSCE should be proud of. The Finnish Chairmanship remains committed to ensure the effective participation of NGO's in the

work of the OSCE on the basis of existing commitments, in particular the OSCE 1992 Helsinki Document.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me highlight a few specific themes on the basis of our deliberations during the last two weeks. Referring to our Chairmanship priorities trafficking in human beings still remains high on our agenda. As the Special Representative Eva Biaudet underlined, reinforced action is needed in the identification of victims and in ensuring a victim-centered approach in criminal justice responses to human trafficking.

ODIHR's report on the Implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti was published during this meeting. It provides us an overview on improvements made as well as challenges yet to be met in this field. It is of utmost importance that the participating States and other actors involved carefully look into the findings of the report and take necessary action.

The OSCE's work on tolerance and non-discrimination remains topical and requires constant attention. Our region continues to be plagued by the rise of intolerance as is demonstrated in the ODIHR's newly released hate crimes report. The report unfortunately shows that in particular Jews, Muslims as well as migrants, Roma, and refugees are increasingly facing hate-motivated attacks. In addition, violent crimes based on individuals' sexual orientation are unacceptably common.

During the debate many of us have referred to the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This declaration is the corner stone of all international human rights. We need to reaffirm our strong commitment to the rights and commitments enshrined in the Declaration. In the same vein I would also like to mention the principles in the Helsinki Final Act, in particular the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

On the occasion of the World Day against the Death Penalty - which is recognized around the world today - the Finnish Chairmanship would like to draw your attention to the ODIHR annual publication entitled "the Death Penalty in the OSCE area".

Yesterday we witnessed a lively debate on election-related issues. The Finnish Chairmanship has contributed to this dialogue by organising a seminar in July on the issue. Furthermore, let me use this

opportunity and remind of the seminar on electronic voting to be organised in Finland on 26-27 October.

The situation in Georgia has also been discussed during this Meeting. In September the Chairman-in-Office, Foreign Minister Alexander Stubb, together with the Council of Europe Chairman of the Committee of Ministers, Foreign Minister of Sweden, Carl Bildt called on the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the ODIHR and the Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner to make an assessment of the human rights situation in the war-affected areas. The Finnish Chairmanship is pleased that the High Commissioner and the Director of the ODIHR have scheduled a joint visit to Georgia. It is essential that they will be given full access to all areas, including South-Ossetia and Abkhazia. We look forward to their assessment.

Furthermore the OSCE needs a long-term perspective in the promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. In this respect the so called quintet cooperation has provided a new opportunity. The Chairmanship is pleased that the five consecutive Chairmanships of the OSCE, Spain, Finland, Greece, Kazakhstan and Lithuania have agreed a long-term approach towards anti-trafficking, gender mainstreaming as well as tolerance and non-discrimination issues.

Ladies and gentlemen,

During the discussions at this years HDIM we have recorded a variety of recommendations addressed to the participating States and OSCE actors. This feedback needs to be carefully studied. As appropriate, we should consider action towards further enhancing the implementation of OSCE commitments on human rights, democracy and rule of law.

Let me conclude by expressing the Finnish Chairmanship's deep appreciation to Ambassador Lenarcic and his Office for their dedicated work in guaranteeing the success of this Meeting. Our gratitude also goes to Poland as host country. Furthermore I would like to thank the introducers for their thought-provoking interventions. I would also like to thank our moderators under whose professional guidance the discussions have taken place. I would also like to convey a great word of thanks to our dynamic rapporteurs for summarizing the deliberations of this Meeting. Last but not least I would like to thank the interpreters and technical staff, without whose contribution this Meeting would have not been possible.

Thank you.