

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

ENGLISH only

Point of order

By Ambassador Fredericka Gregory
Canadian Permanent Representative to the OSCE
Opening session of the Review Conference
Vienna, October 18, 2010

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

Canada would like to make a point of order under section VI, paragraph 2(e) of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

Mr. Chairperson,

As you know, Canada is an interested party to the ongoing issue of NGO access and registration to this important Review Conference that will lead us to the Astana Summit.

My Delegation would like to express its reservation, as we did in Warsaw two weeks ago, to the method of exclusion recently applied to some NGOs in their effort to register for the pre-Summit Reviews. It is our strong belief that pursuing unilateral process by some participating States for NGOs access would create an unfortunate precedent and would be contrary to well established OSCE practices and rules on NGO participation.

We fail to see any new compelling information that would warrant a change in our view and position on this matter, or that would warrant a departure from past ODIHR and OSCE practices. Indeed, the NGOs in question have attended many previous OSCE events and ODIHR activities without restrictions.

My Delegation therefore asks the Secretariat to allow the NGOs in question to be registered for this Conference.

Thank you.