



## **HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON VICTIMS OF TERRORISM**

**13-14 September 2007  
HOFBURG, VIENNA**

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

The modalities for this meeting are set out in accordance with the decision of the Permanent Council PC.DEC/803 of 26 July 2007.

#### **I. AIM OF THE MEETING**

OSCE Permanent Council decision No. 618 of 1 July 2004 recognizes that acts of terrorism seriously impair the enjoyment of human rights and that there is a need to strengthen solidarity among participating States for the victims of terrorism, who have suffered bodily injury or impairment of health, and dependants and family members of persons who have died as a result of such attacks, in accordance with each State's domestic law. PC Dec. 618/04 invites participating States to explore the possibility of introducing or enhancing appropriate measures, subject to domestic legislation, for support, including financial support, to victims of terrorism and their families.

The meeting will focus on the following areas:

- The victim
- Victims' assistance programs
- The victim in legal proceedings
- The role of civil society

#### **II. Organizational modalities**

The High-Level Meeting will be opened by the OSCE Chairmanship.

Each of the working sessions will have a moderator and the ODIHR and OSCE Chairmanship will provide rapporteurs.

The Rules of Procedure of the OSCE will be applied at the High-Level Meeting. Also, the guidelines for organizing OSCE meetings (PC.DEC/762) will be taken into consideration.

All plenary sessions will be open to all participants.

The discussions during the plenary sessions will be interpreted from and into the six working languages of the OSCE.

A comprehensive report on the discussions at the High-Level Meeting will be distributed by the ODIHR no later than eight weeks after the event.

The press will be informed by the Press and Public Information Section (PPIS), as appropriate.

### **III. Participation**

Delegations from the OSCE participating States, as well as representatives of civil society, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations having relevant experience on the topic of this meeting can participate subject to the provisions contained in Chapter IV, paragraph (16), of Helsinki Document 1992. Delegations from participating States will, ideally, include one high-level official and one national expert. They may also include representatives of civil society, the private sector and non-governmental organizations.

Relevant OSCE executive structures will be invited to the High-Level Meeting.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Partners for Co-operation shall be invited to attend and make both oral and written contributions at the High-Level Meeting.

Other intergovernmental organizations dealing with solidarity with the victims of terrorism will also be invited, including the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

#### **Guidelines for speakers**

To facilitate discussion within time constraints, keynote presentations will be limited to 15–20 minutes and interventions/questions from the floor to five minutes.

Participants are encouraged to share national experiences and legislation on victims of terrorism in general, and more specifically on the topic of assistance, the standing of victims in legal proceeding and the role of civil society in solidarity with victims of terrorism. Participants are welcome to provide more detailed written remarks and copies of relevant documents to be shared with all participants.

To promote interactive discussion, formal statements and interventions in the working sessions should be as concise as possible and should not exceed five to seven minutes.

#### **Guidelines regarding deadlines for registration, submission and distribution of written contributions and factual information**

By 3 September 2007, participating States should, via their national delegations, inform the OSCE ODIHR of the composition of their delegations in response to the invitation that will have been sent out by the OSCE ODIHR.

By 3 September 2007, representatives of civil society, the private sector and non-governmental organizations should register either via their national delegations or by sending directly to the OSCE ODIHR their registration form for this meeting.

By 7 September 2007, participating States and other participants in the High-Level Meeting are invited to submit any written contributions they may have.

Written contributions and factual information should be submitted to the OSCE ODIHR, which will then distribute them. This information could also include contributions from OSCE institutions and other international organizations, if appropriate.

The OSCE ODIHR will not be in a position to translate written contributions; only proceedings will be simultaneously interpreted into the OSCE official languages, as mentioned above.

#### **IV. ORGANIZATION**

**On-line registration for all participants is available at [http://www.osce.org/conferences/hlm\\_2007.html](http://www.osce.org/conferences/hlm_2007.html).** In case of any questions, please contact Ms. Anna Sierant at [anna.sierant@odihhr.pl](mailto:anna.sierant@odihhr.pl) or at tel.: +48 22 520 06 00 (ext. 4121).

**In addition, advance registration will be available on Thursday, 13 September, from 08.30 in the Hofburg Congress Centre, in the Segmentgalerie, 1<sup>st</sup> floor.**

**Registration during the Meeting is available at the same place.**

#### **V. OTHER**

Side events may be held in the course of the two days. Additional information on the content and objectives of any side event, as well as timing and duration will be made available shortly on the website of the Meeting.

In order to guarantee efficient use of resources you are kindly requested to address your intentions to organize a side event in the course of the meeting to [elke.lidarik@osce.org](mailto:elke.lidarik@osce.org). Please be informed that interpretation for side events will not be provided by the OSCE.