



United States Mission to the OSCE

Session 17: Democratic institutions, including:

*Democratic elections;
Democracy at the national, regional and local levels;
Citizenship and political rights.*

**Statement in the exercise of the Right of Reply
to the Russian Federation**

at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Warsaw, October 9, 2008

Mr. Moderator, I would like to make a clarification, since the Russian Federation has raised the issue of election observation in the United States. All participating States have committed themselves to allow OSCE observation – this applies to all participating States equally, and the United States extended such invitations to the OSCE, the ODIHR and the Parliamentary Assembly six months ago. It is ODIHR's decision based on its own assessment whether to observe, how many observers to send, and how to conduct the observation. The United States government welcomes ODIHR's decision to send up to 100 long term observers to the November Presidential elections, in addition to a Parliamentary Assembly mission. We will facilitate the work of the PA and ODIHR observers.