

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Closing Reinforced Plenary Session

As delivered by

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Mr. Moderator,

We thank the ODIHR for successful conduct of 2015 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. Our thanks also go to the Polish Government for its traditional hospitality.

Being the most important human dimension event of the OSCE, the HDIM brought together representatives of governments of participating States, our Partners for Cooperation, civil society and academia and provided forum for inclusive dialogue. We engaged in open debate on current challenges in the sphere of human rights, our achievements and best practices in upholding OSCE commitments, but also shortcomings and failures. Here we would like to recall that in Astana Commemorative Declaration participating States reaffirmed that the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned. Therefore sincere dialogue and sharing concerns on human rights situation should not be seen as a blame game but rather an opportunity to monitor each other in earnest on the issues of our common agenda and find ways to better address our commitments.

The discussions in this hall once again clearly revealed the strong link between human rights and fundamental freedoms and security and stability in the OSCE area. There was wide agreement among the participants of this important gathering that violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms may further fuel conflicts and negatively affect the political process of their settlement. Many participants also agreed that conflicts cannot serve as legitimate justification for curtailing realization of human rights. These discussions reaffirmed that the countries who violate human rights in systematic and unapologetic manner tend to be a part of problem, not solution, when it comes to the conflict resolution as well.

The case of Azerbaijan is very illustrative here.

The Delegation of Armenia underlined its human dimension priorities, in particular remembrance and prevention of genocides, non-discrimination and protection of the rights of people living in conflict areas, including their inherent right to decide their own future.-We also highlighted the situation with gross violation of human rights of ethnic and religious minorities in and beyond the OSCE region. We outlined that denial of past crimes can lead to their recurrence, while remembrance and education are cornerstones of prevention of new genocides. We were pleased to note that our priorities were widely supported by the civil society.

We reiterate our readiness to further constructive dialogue and cooperation with the ODIHR and representatives of civil society in order to improve implementation of OSCE commitments.

Thank You.