

Address by Ambassador Christian Strohal,
Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic
Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

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Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is again a great pleasure to report to you, now for the fifteenth time, on our activities at the beginning of 2008, another year which again promises to be an active one for my office and the Organization as a whole. Let me begin by thanking the Spanish Chairmanship, and in particular Ambassador Sanchez de Boado and his team for the support they have provided us throughout 2007. I look forward to working with all of you this year, and am particularly happy about the excellent cooperation we already enjoy with Ambassador Turunen and the whole Finnish Chairmanship team here and in Helsinki.

The ODIHR continues to implement its mandate, as the main institution of the OSCE in the human dimension, to assist participating States to implement their human dimension commitments, on democracy, the protection of human rights, and ensuring the rule of law. We will of course continue to seek ways in which to provide the best support we can to participating States and to improve its efficiency where possible. This includes not only paying due priority to all decisions taken by participating States, but also, more specifically, continuing to follow the path set in MC Decision 19/06 and in our report “*Common Responsibility*” presented to the Brussels Ministerial Council. We are doing this in an increasingly integrated manner across all our programmes, enhancing the effectiveness as well as the efficiency of our work.

Let me start with participating States’ obligations to protect and promote **human rights** and fundamental freedoms. ODIHR’s support in this regard involves both monitoring the implementation of compliance with OSCE commitments, as well as providing expert advice and assistance including training and capacity building. This includes helping address the threat of terrorism in line with rule of law and human rights principles through assistance in legislative drafting and training for government officials. We will shortly be presenting our most recent publication here in the Hofburg - a Manual “*Countering terrorism, protecting human rights*”, that provides in-depth background on the rights at stake in counter-terrorism and the relevant standards that apply in the OSCE region, and will be published in English and Russian.

The work of our Focal Point for Human Rights Defenders and National Human Rights Institutions is focusing on capacity building for national institutions, compiling a handbook aimed at legislators and policy makers dealing with practical issues and legislation concerning freedom of association, and liaising directly with human rights defenders. We will give particular emphasis to training on how to monitor and report on issues related to the freedom of peaceful assembly.

Our Anti Trafficking programme is undertaking activities to support and enhance co-operation between civil society and State authorities, in particular through the promotion of National Referral Mechanisms, and enhancing support to trafficked persons in accessing justice and rights. In view of the increasing significance of labour exploitation in the OSCE region, especially marginalized communities such as Roma and Sinti, we will also work to increase attention to this issue.

We are currently in the final stages of publishing our Handbook on *Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Armed Forces Personnel*, which we have produced together with DCAF and also aim to present at the Hofburg in the near future. In this context, we will also be offering expertise and assistance to States on implementing the practical recommendations of the handbook, including through training workshops for state and civil society representatives.

We will continue to offer support throughout the OSCE region in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on women and security. We will support States in promoting Human Rights within their formal education systems and to offer training and capacity building projects for civil society groups.

Let me turn to our **election-related activities**. They go, of course, far beyond observation and assessment missions, as these missions provide a broad range of insight and recommendations and as governments ask for follow-up cooperation. In fact, a number of our activities throughout ODIHR's programmes benefit in this regard. They also contribute to the activities of other institutions and field operations.

Elections, more specifically, present a key occasion for highlighting the realization of a broad range of human rights. Last year, the ODIHR fielded nine election observation missions and seven assessment missions. In addition to the final reports produced by each mission, we have also published needs assessment and interim reports. A full list is annexed, as is a summary of all country-related activities. All these reports contain a wealth of findings and concrete recommendations which we hope States will use to bring their elections in line with OSCE commitments. I am glad that a number of States remain in close contact with us on implementing these recommendations, although some countries prefer to deny any shortcomings rather than working on improvements. In line with MC Decision 19/06 and the recommendations contained in "*Common Responsibility*" we will continue to enhance our follow-up activities, including by inviting authorities, parliamentarians, NGOs and other interested members of the public to participate in dialogue on follow-up.

For 2008, we are facing a similarly busy electoral calendar. As indicated in our budget submission, we plan for up to ten full Election Observation Missions and up to eight Assessment Missions. Based on the information available to us, we have circulated a draft elections calendar, which can also be found on the ODIHR website, where it is regularly updated, based also on additional information we receive from Delegations.

Since my last PC report ahead of the Ministerial Council, we have had a very busy winter. We have deployed missions to the parliamentary elections in Croatia and Kyrgyzstan, as well as the presidential elections in Uzbekistan and Georgia. In addition, we are currently winding down our limited EOM which covered the second round of the presidential elections in Serbia this past Sunday; finally, we are on the ground since several weeks in Armenia in preparation for the 19 February presidential contest.

I take this opportunity to thank all these participating States for the warm welcome they have given our missions and for the good cooperation and support we have received from them. I look forward to continue this cooperation.

I regret that, for the first time, one participating State chose to place unprecedented restrictions on our observation effort. Unfortunately, this, in addition to practical difficulties in obtaining visa, made it impossible to conduct any long-term observation in accordance with Copenhagen commitments and our mandate “before, during and after elections”. It is regrettable that it appears that similar restrictions are once again being imposed. Despite our efforts to find a solution in contacts with the Central Election Commission, we were again not given access to large parts of the electoral process. In addition, we have in the past days again been experiencing visa refusals for our experts. Under these circumstances, we are therefore not able to deliver our mandate. I have informed the Chairman-in-Office accordingly.

Allow me at this point to thank participating States for their support through the secondment of observers to our missions, often during holidays and despite difficult budgetary situations. It is these efforts which ensure a broad and diverse composition of our missions, typically comprising observers from around 40 participating States. We trust that this joint effort of participating States and the ODIHR will continue as we will be called upon to observe and assess a number of important elections throughout this year. We will also continue our efforts to provide legislative support, often together with the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, and other assistance, working towards concrete follow-up and results.

In 2008 again, my institution is ready to fulfill our mandate in the preparation and organization of **human dimension events** that take place throughout the year. I understand that the topics and detailed agendas are currently being discussed among Delegations in Vienna. I call on all Delegations to support the Chairmanship in their endeavor to reach an agreement on the dates and topics of these meetings as soon as possible. This would not only acknowledge the modalities adopted by this Council, determining that a decision should be taken no later than 1 February, but also greatly facilitate preparations for these important events.

We remain in close consultation with the Finnish Chairmanship and have provided a number of suggestions for topics, including on issues related to Constitutional Justice, Roma and Sinti Issues, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, Trafficking in Human Beings, and democratic governance.

These events fulfill a number of important functions: not only implementation review as such, but also early warning, dialogue, good practice-networking, and identification of challenges and possible solutions. In order to realize their full potential, broad and specialized participation is crucial, as is follow up.

We will again strive to attract strong participation, therefore, a good measure of the vibrancy of our collective review of the implementation of human dimension commitments. The steadily rising numbers of NGO participants pay tribute to the fact that there is great interest in engaging in dialogue with States at these important meetings. Unfortunately, and despite the great interest shown by civil society, these meetings remain the only mandated point of entry for the civil society community into the OSCE. The OSCE's recognition of the value of civil society organizations dates back to the Helsinki Final Act, we should not be seen as closing our doors to them at a time when an increasing number of them are facing, in some participating States, political and administrative challenges threatening their ability to continue to do their important work.

As far as the follow-up is concerned, success can only be measured by the effort each and every one of you, as well as us, is making in this regard. We are certainly interested to contribute to discussions about further enhancing its effectiveness.

Our **Democratization** Programme will continue to provide democratization and institution building expertise to participating States, in order to help ensure the institutional capacity as well as that of democratic processes necessary for the effective rule of law. We provide training programmes for officials in all three branches of government as well as for legal professionals. In this, we will continue to promote the exchange of experience and good practices on a regional level, as well as the use of experts from within the region in assisting their implementation. Development of professional and inclusive law-making processes in order to secure legislation in line with commitments, and capacity-building for conducting fair trials in the OSCE area will also be one of our focus areas.

This year, we aim to publish a reference guide on trial monitoring as well as a publication on combating and preventing torture, both of which should not only interest authorities and civil society, but also be of practical relevance to OSCE field operations. We also look forward to feed-back on the use of our *Guidelines on the Freedom of Peaceful Assembly*. We will continue to facilitate discussions on the introduction of jury trials and transfer of sanctions to arrest from the prosecutors to the judiciary as well as providing training to the young leaders in the criminal justice sector. The ODIHR will also continue offering platforms for exchanges of experiences among legal professionals.

We are glad to see increasing demand for our legislation reviews and will continue our support for democratic governance practices. We will be increasing our focus on legislative efficiency by in-depth assessment of legislative processes, working with participating States in considering ways to make these processes more transparent and inclusive. A number of such surveys have already been completed in 2007. Our legislative database www.legislationline.org has been translated into Russian and will

continue to be further improved with more information be made available about legislative procedures in OSCE countries.

The Office plans to continue its assistance in the development of legislation on freedom of movement and free choice of place of residence inside the country and expert assistance in the reform of civil registration systems. The ODIHR will maintain work with other international actors on assisting the participating States in developing their migration management policies and on facilitating OSCE-wide dialogue and co-operation on labour-migration issues and the human rights of migrants.

Our long-term work on strengthening national expertise for the promotion of gender equality focuses on building practical capacity of national experts. Our gender experts facilitate civil society-governmental co-operation to ensure an increased role for women in decision making and their full participation in political and public life. We assist participating States in the development and implementation of national strategies for the promotion of gender equality. The ODIHR will also work on strengthening of analytic capacities of parliaments, multi-party systems and inter-party dialogue.

In 2008, the Office will also continue work for **combating intolerance and discrimination** and in promoting mutual respect and understanding. In line with our mandate, we will closely follow hate-motivated crimes and incidents to offer technical support and assistance at an expert-level to respond to them. This includes work on our annual publication "*Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region: Incidents and Responses*" for which we count on your assistance and cooperation as well as of the National Points of Contact on Combating Hate Crime. We are grateful to the Finnish Chairmanship for helping us host a meeting of these contact points this summer in Helsinki.

We will also offer technical assistance to OSCE participating States in strengthening their collection of data on hate crime as well as offering training to NGOs active in this field.

Also in this field, we will strengthen our activities regarding education, focusing on the translation and promotion of the use of teaching materials we have developed on anti-Semitism, our guidelines on Holocaust memorial days and the guidelines on how to react to anti-Semitism. Our support activities cover the promotion of both human rights and mutual respect and understanding in the formal educational system, an approach currently being launched successfully in Azerbaijan. We will also present a report containing recommendations for policy makers and other stakeholders in the educational arena.

The ODIHR will continue providing legislative assistance and assistance to law enforcement officers. Our newly launched law enforcement officer network on combating hate crime will look into ways on how to exchange information, resources and practical initiatives which law enforcement agencies can use to more effectively respond to hate crimes. This year we also aim to increase our outreach in this area to judges, prosecutors and other legal professionals.

In the area of freedom of religion or belief we will continue to offer legislative and practical assistance, drawing on the expertise of our Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief. We also plan to further raise awareness about the *Toledo Guiding Principles on teaching about religion in schools*. The Guiding Principles will be translated into additional languages and circulated widely to governments and NGOs.

In all these activities, the ODIHR will also maintain its close collaboration with the Personal Representatives of the CiO and coordination with other organizations active in this field, in particular ECRI, EUFRA, UNCERD and UNHCHR.

We welcome the emphasis placed by the Chairman-in Office on the situation of **Roma and Sinti** in our region. It is high time to revisit the question of how far we have come in the implementation of the Action Plan, adopted five years ago in Maastricht, and to follow-up on the Special Day of last year's HDIM.

In our work, we will again be focusing on assisting States in developing and implementing Roma and Sinti-related policies, as well as in dealing with practical questions relating to civil registration, housing, policing, education, anti-trafficking, and political participation. This can only be done through inclusive policies, involving Roma and Sinti communities as stakeholders. Our contact point works closely with them, facilitating contacts with authorities but also raising awareness within communities themselves on ways to improve their situation.

Recent joint activities, including a successful country visit together with representatives of the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Secretariat's SPMU, have demonstrated that this issue benefits from being addressed in a cross-dimensional manner. In this work, the ODIHR can also serve as an early warning or conflict prevention mechanism.

The ODIHR, as clearing house for these issues under the Action Plan, will in addition to a number of thematic publications planned for this year, be launching a status report on implementation of the Action Plan for the period of 2004 -2006.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As at the beginning of every year, I have tried to give a concise, but certainly not an exhaustive, overview of our planned activities for this year. As I have said at the outset, it will be a busy year for us. The continually increasing demand for our assistance, the growing public interest in our reports, and rising participation in our meetings show that we are well on the right track. But even more importantly, it also indicates that participating States, too, are increasingly engaging with our experts on finding solutions to challenges in the human dimension, both old and new ones. Such engagement is also significant for our efforts to help create networks on good practice. I take this opportunity

to once again thank you for this cooperation and in particular to express our appreciation to those States who assist our work through voluntary contributions.

The Brussels Ministerial Council stressed the importance of conducting our work with independence, impartiality and professionalism. It is precisely to uphold these principles that the participating States have decided to entrust a special institution of our organization with guiding the OSCE's activities in the Human Dimension, including through election observation. I am convinced that these principles stand at the core of the success of my Institution and I trust that participating States will continue to support us in asserting these principles.

We realize that there is always room for further developing our work and making our assistance more effective, and we value your constructive comments to this end. As I have said earlier, we are ourselves also working on sharpening our tools and making our work more efficient, including by implementing the measures we had identified in our report "Common Responsibility" and reiterated in MC Decision 19/06. I have, as in past reports to the Permanent Council, compiled a list of steps taken as well as issues we are still working and have included them as another annex to this report.

Like all the work ODIHR conducts and I have just outlined, these measures are practical in nature and carried out conscientiously and in good faith, with the goal of genuinely strengthening our electoral work. We will continue on our path, but - and you have all heard me say this before - the responsibility for implementing commitments ultimately lies with participating States. Success in the Human Dimension should not be measured by the achievements of OSCE institutions - we are just supporting actors: success has to be gauged in terms of the progress made by States in living up to their common responsibility.

We at ODIHR look forward to working closely with all of you in facing the many challenges ahead.

Thank you.

ANNEX 1

LIST OF ODIHR ELECTION RELATED ACTIVITIES IN 2007

1- Albania

- Limited Election Observation Mission (Local elections)
- Discussions with the authorities on voter registers
- Dialogue on the reform of the election legislation
- Joint¹ Opinion on the Amendments to the Electoral Code

2- Armenia

- Needs Assessment Mission
- Election Observation Mission (parliamentary elections)
- Dialogue on reform of the election legislation
- Final Joint Opinion on the Amendments to the Electoral Code of Armenia
- Joint Opinion on the 26 February 2007 Amendments to the Electoral Code of Armenia

3- Azerbaijan

- Sustained dialogue on the improvement of the election legislation, including two meetings with the Venice Commission and two round tables on the formation of election commissions and adjudication of complaints.

4- Croatia

- Needs Assessment Mission
- Limited Election Observation Mission (parliamentary elections)
- Dialogue on the reform of the election legislation
- Joint Opinion on the Draft Law on Voters Lists of Croatia
- Participation in roundtable on the law on campaign financing

5- Belgium

- Needs Assessment Mission
- Election Assessment Mission (parliamentary elections)

6- Estonia

- Needs Assessment Mission
- Limited Election Observation Mission (parliamentary elections)

7- Finland

- Needs Assessment Mission

¹ Throughout this document, “joint” means that the law reviews were prepared jointly with the CoE Venice Commission.

8- France

- Needs Assessment Mission
- Election Assessment Mission (presidential elections)

9- Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

- Joint Opinion on the Draft Working Text Amending the Election Code of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Participation in election related workshops on campaign financing, etc

10- Georgia

- Needs Assessment Mission
- Election Observation Mission (presidential election – unscheduled)
- Sustained dialogue with the authorities on the improvement of the election code

11- Germany

- Participation in election observer training organized by ZIF

12- Ireland

- Needs Assessment Mission
- Election Assessment Mission (parliamentary elections)

13- Kazakhstan

- Election Observation Mission (parliamentary elections – unscheduled)
- Sustained dialogue with the authorities on improvement of the election legal framework

14- Kyrgyzstan

- Needs Assessment Mission
- Election Observation Mission (parliamentary elections – unscheduled)
- Sustained dialogue with the authorities on improvement of the election legal framework
- Election Support Team – constitutional referendum
- Election Support Team – parliamentary by-elections

15- Moldova

- Needs Assessment Mission
- Election Observation Mission (local elections)

16- Norway

- Participation in election observer training organized by NORDEM

17- Poland

- Needs Assessment Mission
- Election Assessment Mission (parliamentary elections – unscheduled)

18- Russian Federation

- Training of election observers – Diplomatic Academy
- Working visit in relation to the State Duma elections
- Participation in workshop on election observation organized by the CIS PA and the Central Election Commission

19- Serbia

- Election Observation Mission (parliamentary elections)

20- Switzerland

- Needs Assessment Mission
- Election Assessment Mission (parliamentary elections)

21- Turkey

- Needs Assessment Mission
- Election Assessment Mission (parliamentary elections – early election)

22- Turkmenistan

- Election Support Team (presidential election – unscheduled)
- Training of election observers from civil society

23- Ukraine

- Needs Assessment Mission
- Election Observation Mission (parliamentary elections – unscheduled)
- Joint Opinion on the Law on the State Register of Voters of Ukraine

24- Uzbekistan

- Needs Assessment Mission
- Limited Election Observation Mission (presidential election)

ANNEX 2

OSCE/ODIHR ELECTION REPORTS AND STATEMENTS RELEASED IN 2007

- **General elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1 October 2006**
 1. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Report
- **Parliamentary elections in Latvia, 7 October 2006**
 2. OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission Report
- **Presidential election in Bulgaria, 22 and 29 October 2006**
 3. OSCE/ODIHR Election Assessment Mission Report
- **Presidential election in Tajikistan, 6 November 2006**
 4. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Report
- **Mid –term congressional elections in the USA, 7 November 2006**
 5. OSCE/ODIHR Election Assessment Mission Report
- **Parliamentary elections in the Netherlands, 22 November 2006**
 6. OSCE/ODIHR Election Assessment Mission Report
- **Parliamentary elections in the Republic of Serbia, 21 January 2007**
 7. EOM Interim Report
 8. Preliminary Statement by the OSCE/ODIHR EOM
 9. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Report
- **Presidential election in Turkmenistan, 11 February 2007**
 10. Needs Assessment Mission Report
- **Municipal elections in Albania, 18 February 2007**
 11. EOM Interim Report 1
 12. EOM Interim Report 2
 13. EOM Interim Report 3
 14. Preliminary Statement by the International EOM
 15. EOM Interim Report 4
 16. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Report
- **Parliamentary elections in Estonia, 4 March 2007**
 17. Needs Assessment Mission Report
 18. OSCE/ODIHR Election Assessment Mission Report

- **Parliamentary elections in Finland, 18 March**
 - 19. Needs Assessment Mission Report
- **Presidential election in France, 22 April and 6 May 2007**
 - 20. Needs Assessment Mission Report
 - 21. OSCE/ODIHR Election Assessment Mission Report
- **Parliamentary elections in Armenia, 12 May 2007**
 - 22. Needs Assessment Mission Report
 - 23. EOM Interim Report 1
 - 24. EOM Interim Report 2
 - 25. EOM Interim Report 3
 - 26. Preliminary Statement by the International EOM
 - 27. EOM Post-election Interim Report 1
 - 28. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Report
- **Parliamentary elections in Ireland, 24 May 2007**
 - 29. Needs Assessment Mission Report
 - 30. OSCE/ODIHR Election Assessment Mission Report
- **Local elections in Moldova, 3 June 2007**
 - 31. Needs Assessment Mission Report
 - 32. Interim Report 1
 - 33. Interim Report 2
 - 34. Preliminary Statement by the IEOM
 - 35. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Report
- **Federal elections in Belgium, 10 June 2007**
 - 36. Needs Assessment Mission Report
 - 37. OSCE/ODIHR Election Assessment Mission Report
- **Parliamentary elections in Turkey, 22 July 2007**
 - 38. Needs Assessment Mission Report
 - 39. OSCE/ODIHR Election Assessment Mission Report
- **Parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan, 18 August 2007**
 - 40. Interim Report
 - 41. Preliminary Statement by the IEOM
 - 42. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Report
- **Parliamentary elections in Ukraine, 30 September 2007**
 - 43. Needs Assessment Mission Report
 - 44. EOM Interim Report 1
 - 45. EOM Interim Report 2
 - 46. EOM Interim Report 3

- 47. Preliminary Statement by the IEOM
- 48. Post-election Interim Report
- 49. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Report

- **Parliamentary elections in Switzerland, 21 October 2007**
 - 50. Needs Assessment Mission Report

- **Parliamentary elections in Poland, 21 October 2007**
 - 51. Needs Assessment Mission Report

- **Parliamentary elections in Croatia, 25 November 2007**
 - 52. Needs Assessment Mission Report
 - 53. LEOM Interim Report

- **Pre-term parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan, 16 December 2007**
 - 54. Needs Assessment Mission Report
 - 55. EOM Interim Report 1
 - 56. Preliminary Statement by the IEOM

- **Presidential election in Uzbekistan, 23 December 2007**
 - 57. Needs Assessment Mission Report
 - 58. LEOM Interim Report

- **Extraordinary presidential election in Georgia, 5 January 2008**
 - 59. Needs Assessment Mission Report
 - 60. EOM Interim Report 1
 - 61. EOM Interim Report 2

- **Presidential election in Armenia, 19 February 2008**
 - 62. Needs Assessment Mission Report

ANNEX 3

Common Responsibility: Commitments and Implementation - Follow up activities by ODIHR

Strengthening and Furthering ODIHR's Election-Related Activities

1. Make follow-up mechanisms more effective

- Discussion paper: *Follow up on Implementation of OSCE/ODIHR Recommendations*
- In 2007, specific follow up (FU) activities were conducted in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Georgia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine.
- Continue to identify which OSCE States are interested to receive FU visits, also in view of the drafting and release of country-specific FU reports to ODIHR recommendations
- Exploring ways to involve parliamentary partners in FU activities

2. Improve the delivery of the observation methodology

- Publication of ODIHR Long-term Observer (LTO) Handbook
- Publication of Guidelines for Media Monitoring during Election Campaigns
- Revise ODIHR Guidelines on Reviewing of Election Legal Framework
- Revise ODIHR Guidelines on the Participation of National Minorities in the Electoral Process [joint activity with HCNM]
- Continue the systematic evaluation of EOMs (feedback forms) which is overall very positive – completed for Armenia (2007), Moldova (2007), Kazakhstan (2007), Ukraine (2007), Kyrgyzstan (2007), and Georgia) (2008).
- Publication of ODIHR Guidelines on Observation of New Voting Technologies (drafting phase)
- Publication of ODIHR Guidelines on Observation of Voter Registration (drafting phase)
- 2008 ExB Programme Package: project on organizing a seminar on International Election Observation: Lessons Learned and Good Practices. (Currently unfunded)
Objective: ongoing dialogue on election observation methodologies with international actors involved in observation
- Continue to participate in meetings with other International Organizations involved in election observation to discuss refinement of observation methodology; e.g. participation in the “Second International Meeting on the Implementation of the

Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation” hosted by the Organisation of American States in Washington DC in October 2007, and participation in two conferences on election observation organized by the CIS PA and CEC of the Russian Federation, preceding the State Duma and Presidential elections, respectively.

- Periodic briefing for OSCE Delegations on aspects of the ODIHR election observation methodology (statistical and media analysis during EOMs, follow-up meetings to Common Responsibility, training and recruitment of observers).

3. Develop the “geographical scope” of election activities

- In 2007, seven EAMs were conducted, permitting the ODIHR to follow electoral developments in a broader range of OSCE participating States, including: Estonia, France, Ireland, Belgium, Turkey, Poland and Switzerland.
- For 2008, ODIHR would maintain the number of planned EAMs at 8.
- Deploy an increased number of Needs Assessment Missions (NAMs), in 2008; NAMs to Spain and Montenegro took place already.
- In 2007, a NAM was deployed before each election observation activity except for Kazakhstan (snap elections). Total number of NAMs: 15 (each followed by a public report).

4. Further diversify participation of observers/experts for EOMs

- Continue to pay special attention to diversification when recruiting EOM core teams (in 2007, on average 38 pS were represented in ODIHR EOMs as compared with 19 in 2000 and 33 in 2006, respectively)
- In 2000, before the launch of the Fund for Diversification, 27 participating States were represented in ODIHR EOMs. In 2006 this number increased to 40 participating States. In 2007, this number reached a record high of 43 OSCE States that participated in election observation throughout the OSCE region. In Ukraine for the 18 August parliamentary elections, nationals from 47 OSCE States were represented in the ODIHR EOM.
- Continue to request contributions to the Fund, in order to increase the number of LTOs (up to 4) and STOs (up to 20) deployed per mission, resources permitting.

5. Further increase transparency of recruitment

- a competitive, public, and transparent recruitment process for all EOM core team members has been established, including Heads of Missions – implemented for the EOMs to Armenia (2007), Moldova (2007), Kazakhstan (2007), Ukraine (2007), Croatia

(2007), Kyrgyzstan (2007), Uzbekistan (2007), Georgia (2008), Armenia (2008).

- Creation of a possibility to apply for any EOM positions, including heads of Missions, through a specific recruitment webpage on ODIHR website.
- continue the encouragement for applications and expand the pools of experts, which has resulted so far in an increase of the pool from approximately 1,000 registered experts to over 2,100.
- Continue to ask experts included in the roster to regularly update their CV.
- Continue to review other practices for enhancing ODIHR roster.

6. Establish a practitioners network among ODIHR election observation experts

- conducting lessons learned exercises meeting with deputy Heads of EOMs, and other ODIHR senior core team staff,
- continuing outreach to national election administrators.

7. Develop public outreach and training support

- Continue to systematically evaluate ODIHR STO trainings to draw lessons and improve the output
- Continue STO trainings - three took place since November 2006, over 100 STOs were trained.
- Participation in the OSCE Annual Conference on Training and Recruitment of Election Observers
- Compile glossary of election terminology in different languages – most recently for Armenia, Moldova, Kazakhstan and Ukraine
- Continue to develop training standards in cooperation with the training section
- Increase training cooperation with participating States, i.a. through specialized institutions such as ZIF, NORDEM, NEEDS, ERIS, Russian Diplomatic Academy, ASPR
- 2008 ExB Programme Package: project on establishing an annual training of LTOs (resources required)
- Offer ODIHR's assistance in developing national observer training curricula
- Cooperate with the OSCE training section to possibly train ODIHR election advisers on communication techniques.
- Participating in election observation training for African parliamentarians under the auspices of the pan-African parliament.

8. Develop a stronger capacity on the use of information technology and on the observation of electronic voting

In the context of existing project on observation of new voting technologies,

- Continue to enhance the focus on new voting technologies and elections
- Develop Guidelines on observation of e-voting
- Continue focus on internet voting - such as in Estonia and on e-voting in France (2007), Belgium (2006, 2007), Ireland (2007), and Kazakhstan (2007).
- Further identify experts in new election technologies and develop a network in this regard

9. Enhance linguistic inclusiveness to allow equal and full participation of observers from throughout the OSCE region

- *in Armenia*
 - Simultaneous interpretation of STO briefing
 - Core team presentations translated into Russian and projected simultaneously with the English version
 - Observation forms translated into Russian
- *in Ukraine*
 - Observation forms were translated into Russian and distributed to STO who spoke Russian
 - Simultaneous interpretation of the central STO debriefing
- *General*
 - Glossary of terms in ARM/EN/RU, ROM/RU/EN, KAZ/RU/EN, UKR/EN/RU
 - Simultaneous interpretation of the STO briefing also offered Moldova, Kazakhstan and Ukraine
 - LTO Handbook has been translated into Russian
 - Continue to offer simultaneous translation of STO briefings. Latest examples are Armenia, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia
 - Continue to translate law reviews, interim reports, preliminary statements and final reports into languages widely used in the country observed
 - Continue interpretation of STO trainings in Bishkek OSCE Academy into Russian
 - Translate key EOM documents into Russian
 - Continue translation of all ELD related publications into Russian
 - Develop guidelines for interpreters and translate into local languages.

10. Enhance ODIHR-wide coherence, broadening the context of election observation and assistance for overall democratization activities

- Continue office-wide follow up initiatives with other ODIHR departments
- Conduct joint projects (ie, voter/civil registers project, roundtable on freedom of assembly)

- Include Roma STOs in ODIHR EOMs through the Diversification Fund. (Latest examples are Albania, Moldova and Ukraine. The elections missions to France and Moldova included a national minority expert from the Roma community.)
- Develop work of Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues on Roma political participation

11. Further enhance co-operation with parliamentary observers

- Continue to work with parliamentarians in the context of their early visits – implemented in Armenia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia and Armenia.
- During EOMs, continue to support their observation through comprehensive briefings, deployment planning and logistical arrangements.
- Develop closer cooperation on follow-up
- Offer specific briefings for Members of Parliaments on ODIHR election observation methodology
- Continue bilateral discussion/contacts with the OSCE PA on practical cooperation

12. Share expertise with other regions and organizations

- Participation in a workshop on election observation organized by the European parliament and the European Commission (Autumn 2007).
- Participation in conference on the European approach to democracy promotion (April 2007)
- Participation in the “Second International Meeting on the Implementation of the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation”
- Participation in two conferences organized by the CIS PA and RF CEC on election observation prior to State Duma and Presidential elections respectively.
- Participation in an election observation workshop for parliamentarians organized by the Pan-African Parliament (May 2007)
- Further revitalizing the dialogue with the African Union
- Meet Vienna representatives of OSCE Partners to discuss how ODIHR could make its election expertise available to them
- 2008 ExB Programme Package: project on the creation of voluntary Fund for Guest Observers from Asian and Mediterranean OSCE Partners (funds required).
- 2008 ExB Programme Package: project on organizing a seminar on International Election Observation: Lessons Learned and Good Practices (funds required).