



**Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting**  
22-23 June 2020 (online)

**PRACTICAL INFORMATION NOTE**

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES**

**1. Aim, dates and venue of the meeting**

According to the decision of the Permanent Council (PC.DEC/476, 23 May 2002), each year, the Chairmanship-in-Office organizes three informal Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings (SHDMs), in the framework of the OSCE Permanent Council, in order to discuss key substantive concerns raised at previous Human Dimension Meetings or Review Conferences. The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and, when required, other OSCE structures and institutions assist the Chairmanship-in-Office in preparing the SHDMs.

The Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) on the topic “*Freedom of Expression, Media and Information*” will be held on 22-23 June 2020. The meeting is organized by the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship with the support of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of Media and OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

During the meeting, recommendations for the OSCE participating States, OSCE institutions, including the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, OSCE executive structures, other inter-governmental organisations as well as civil society actors can be identified and addressed. Additional information relevant to the SHDM, including the annotated agenda, can be found on the SHDM webpage at [https://www.osce.org/odihr/shdm\\_2\\_2020](https://www.osce.org/odihr/shdm_2_2020).

Given the restrictions related to Covid-19, this meeting will exceptionally take place online. Further information about the platform used and related technical information is available below.

**2. Participation**

Representatives of OSCE participating States and OSCE executive structures, representatives of inter-governmental organizations, representatives of civil society and researchers having interest in the topic can participate in the SHDM. The Partners for Co-operation can attend and contribute with respect to their co-operation and links with the OSCE in the field. Civil society organizations can find more information below, in the *Information for Civil Society* section.



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### 3. Registration

Online self-registration at <http://meetings.odihr.pl> is now closed.

**Important note:** Past-deadline registration is not possible.

Please allow sufficient time for the self-registration process, in particular if you are a first time user of the ODIHR Conference and Event Registration System, as you will have to start by creating a profile. First time users are encouraged to sign up for the event as soon as possible after creating an account. Please note that the registration system requires individual registration and uploading of your ID photo.

Participants experiencing issues with registration are requested to address their questions to [anna.sierant@odihr.pl](mailto:anna.sierant@odihr.pl).

Participation in the meeting is free of charge.

### 4. Information relevant to holding the meeting online

The meeting will be held on the Zoom conferencing platform.

**Preparation:** A few days prior to the meeting, access information to the meeting will be sent to all registered participants. It will not be necessary to set up an account with Zoom to join the meeting. Participants may access the meeting through a web browser as well. A technical user guide is available at [https://www.osce.org/odihr/shdm\\_2\\_2020](https://www.osce.org/odihr/shdm_2_2020).

A test session will be held ahead of the meeting on Monday, 22 June between 10.00 am and 11.00 am CET in order for participants to check the compatibility of their connecting device.

**Pre-meeting:** The meeting can be joined 1 hour before the indicated starting time. Participants are encouraged to log in early in order for their credentials and connectivity to be checked prior to the start of the meeting.

Participants are required to join the meeting using the applicable naming convention communicated before the meeting via email. Please consult the technical user guide on Zoom meetings, available at [https://www.osce.org/odihr/shdm\\_2\\_2020](https://www.osce.org/odihr/shdm_2_2020) for additional details. Only



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those delegates with the appropriate naming convention will subsequently be admitted to the meeting. Otherwise, they will be “removed” from the Waiting Room so they may rename themselves and join again applying the naming convention correctly.

**Conduct of the online meeting:** Due to the possibility of connectivity issues throughout the meeting, delegates are strongly encouraged to submit their written statements to the interpreters prior to the meeting (via [documents@osce.org](mailto:documents@osce.org)) in order to ensure the best possible interpretation of their statement. Moreover, speakers are kindly requested to speak slower than usual.

Participants are urged to remain muted with their camera disabled at all times during the meeting, except when taking the floor. This will ensure the best possible sound quality for all meeting participants.

If participants wish to be added to the speakers list during a session they are kindly asked to use the chat function available in Zoom by sending a message to “Floor requests” clearly stating “organisation wishes to take the floor”. Once the moderator hands the floor to a participant, the speaker must unmute himself/herself and turn on the camera before taking the floor. After his/her intervention is finished, the speaker mutes him/herself and disables his/her camera. This process is repeated for each participant which is given the floor.

In case of an ad hoc request for the floor from participating States (e.g. right of reply; point of order; etc.), delegates can use the Chat function to indicate to “Floor requests” that they wish to have the floor.

In case of technical issues (interpretation not working/ unmuting function not working for a delegation who wishes to intervene/etc.), the Chat function shall be used to promptly inform the meeting of the problem, so that appropriate action can be taken.

### 5. Modalities, Schedule and Logistics

**Modalities:** The modalities of the meeting are set out in accordance with the decision of the Permanent Council (PC.DEC/476, 23 May 2002).

**Schedule:** The opening session of SHDM will start on Monday, 22 June at 15.00. During this session, the representatives of the OSCE Chair, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and OSCE Representative on Freedom of Media (RFOM) will present



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their opening remarks. No comments or statements are foreseen from participants due to short time of the opening session.

Three working sessions will follow, and all participants will have the right to speak during the working sessions.

At the closing session, starting on Tuesday, 23 June at 16.30, the moderators of the three working sessions, serving as rapporteurs, will present the reports from the working groups. There will be time for delegations of participating States to voice their comments and, finally, for the representatives of the OSCE Chair, ODIHR and RFOM for their closing remarks.

The meeting will end on Tuesday, 23 June at 17.30.

**Interpretation:** Interpretation will be available in the six official OSCE languages: English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish.

**Guidelines for the debate:** The intention is to develop a free-flowing discussion based on the keynote speeches, panelists' inputs, discussions, background information and written statements circulated in advance or during the SHDM. To this end, a speakers' list is not envisaged. Participants wishing to speak should indicate this to "Floor requests" (via chat function in Zoom) and wait for the floor to be given to them by the moderator.

A representative of a registered organization/institution/participating State can speak only once during a session. If there is time left before the end of the working session, it might be made available for questions or for other participants who have not had a chance to speak on a particular issue addressed earlier.

The moderator will help to ensure that the participants engage in a constructive debate aimed at achieving the meetings' objectives, improving the implementation of OSCE human dimension commitments and formulating recommendations. To this end, moderators may decide about the order of speakers, ensuring that participants speak on the topic under discussion. The moderator may set a maximum speaking time.

Participants should wait for the moderator to give them the floor. When taking the floor, participants shall introduce themselves by providing their name, surname and the name of the organization they represent, and turn on their microphone and camera. Participants should keep their comments short and to the point and speak only within the time frame allotted to them.



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Interventions should be relevant to the topic of the session and contain specific recommendations. Participants have a right to express their opinions freely, while respecting human rights and the principle of non-discrimination.

Participants shall refrain from presenting or shouting any slogans that might: a.) provoke or disturb order and safety, b.) likely to give rise to violence, c.) discriminate against others on the basis of their race, colour, sex, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status (Maastricht 2003, Ljubljana 2005), d.) condone terrorism or the use of violence. Moderators are instructed to ensure that discussions are held in accordance with these principles.

The organizers reserve the right, in case a large number of participants wish to speak, to introduce in the course of the session a list of speakers and to set a maximum speaking time limit.

**Right of reply:** At the end of working sessions, as well as at the opening and closing plenary, participating States will have the possibility to exercise their right of reply. Participating States should indicate to “Floor requests” (via chat function in Zoom) early enough before the end of the session their wish to exercise their right of reply, so sufficient time is allocated.

**Distribution of documents:** Any registered participant present at SHDM may also submit documents for distribution by sending their documents (maximum 3 pages in length) to the Document Distribution Centre at [documents@osce.org](mailto:documents@osce.org). There are no translation services available.

## II. INFORMATION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increased openness in OSCE activities and for expanding the role of NGOs. In particular, in paragraph (15) of Chapter IV, the participating States agreed to facilitate during OSCE meetings “informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and NGOs”.

As per Chapter IV, paragraphs (15) and (16), of the Helsinki Document 1992, the provision of making “open to NGOs [...] human rights implementation meetings” does not apply to “persons or organizations which resort to the use of violence or publicly condone terrorism or the use of violence.”



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In line with these provisions, the OSCE welcomes participation by civil society organizations at the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting to be held on Freedom of Expression, Media and Information.

**III. SIDE EVENTS**

Due to challenges related to organizing simultaneous online events, the possibility for participants to hold side events will exceptionally not be made available at this SHDM.

**IV. CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Overall co-ordination:** Mr. Martin Toplišek, at [martin.toplisek@odihr.pl](mailto:martin.toplisek@odihr.pl)

**Registration of participants:** Ms. Anna Sierant, at [anna.sierant@odihr.pl](mailto:anna.sierant@odihr.pl)