



Republic of Slovenia

OSCE Tolerance Implementation Meeting on Promoting Inter-Cultural, Inter-Religious and Inter-Ethnic Understanding, Almaty, 12 – 13 June 2006

Session III: National, regional and international initiatives to promote inter-cultural, inter-religious and inter-ethnic dialogue and civil society partnership

Statement
by Mr Damjan Bergant,
Head of Delegation of the Republic of Slovenia

Mme Moderator,

The decision on tolerance at the Ljubljana Ministerial Council recalled the importance of this issue for the OSCE and beyond and today's and yesterday's meeting here should underline the human rights in the inter-cultural, inter-religious and inter-ethnic understanding.

Let me inform in this context that very recently Slovenia took over the Chairmanship of the Human Security Network (HSN) at the Ministerial meeting in Bangkok and presented the agenda of the Chairmanship.

The prevalence of the culture, peace, respect, tolerance and dialogue is an important task of the HSN in search for common values, which should provide as a basis for dialogue among civilizations.

Slovenia as a chair will follow the commitments and plans of the HSN designed in the past and devote particular attention to the related topics on which the HSN might formulate joint position and action as for example promotion of intercultural dialogue through human rights education.

Slovenia believes that the promotion of human rights and education of the young should enhance the understanding of diversity of human societies, including ethnic, cultural, religious and national minority aspects, as well as equality, including gender equality. Intercultural and inter-religious respect should be promoted as well. The international agenda should move from norm-

setting towards the operationalisation of human rights. The importance of human rights education is central for attaining both social cohesion and development.

Slovenia has invited the HSN partners to contribute, on the basis of their experience, to human rights education projects and to share their experience with other partners. The objective is to raise the awareness of human rights and freedoms on a large scale and thus contribute to the promotion of inter-religious and intercultural dialogue.

Thank you.