



## Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

**Director of the  
Conflict Prevention Centre**

**Vienna, 21 September 2012**

**Opening remarks of the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre,  
Ambassador Adam Kobieracki, at the 2012 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting  
Warsaw, 24 September 2012**

Dear Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Janez,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here in Warsaw at the Opening of the 2012 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. It is not usual for the Director of the CPC to address the HDIM, but I am doing that also in my capacity as the Deputy Head of the OSCE Secretariat. I would like to thank you, Janez, for giving me this opportunity.

I think this underlines two things: (1) the good co-operation we enjoy between the Secretariat and ODIHR and (2) the importance we at the CPC give to the work done in the Human Dimension.

The OSCE is built on the concept of comprehensive security. ODIHR and the Annual Human Dimension Implementation Meetings are two important pillars of the OSCE's work in the Human Dimension. If one would need yet another proof that this statement is true, just look around this conference room, full of experts from capitals, but also diplomats accredited to the OSCE in Vienna, who have clearly preferred Warsaw to Vienna for the next two weeks. You will debate here a wide variety of key topics in this Dimension, ranging from fundamental freedoms and rule of law to tolerance and non-discrimination and freedom of thought. You will also discuss specific cases, in which, to use diplomatic language, HD implementation record could and should be improved. All of them are, in one way or the other, relevant to the work of the entire OSCE, including CPC. And as we in Vienna focus now more and more on Early Warning as an element of Conflict Cycle, it is only natural that Human Dimension attracts even more attention in that context.

Of course, Human Dimension activities represent a key aspect of our work. Hence, we in the Secretariat value the co-operation we enjoy with ODIHR and the opportunity for exchanges on Human Dimension issues at this Meeting. We also very much value the important contribution that ODIHR has made to our work along the conflict cycle.

As you know, at the Vilnius Ministerial Council, participating States have taken important decision on strengthening OSCE capabilities with regard to early warning, early action, dialogue facilitation and mediation support and post-conflict rehabilitation.

This Decision recognizes that a *comprehensive, cross-dimensional* response is required to address the multi-faceted causes of crises and conflicts and that this also demands co-operation and co-ordination among OSCE executive structures, respecting their mandates while looking for synergies.

One example of the good co-operation between the OSCE Secretariat and ODIHR in this respect is our work on early warning. The CPC, as OSCE focal point for early warning, has led a common effort to develop internal OSCE early warning guidelines. ODIHR, next to the High Commissioner on National Minorities and representatives from field operations, was an important part of the group which developed these guidelines. We continue to work closely with ODIHR in their implementation.

Human Dimension aspects – many of which will be discussed within the next two weeks – are not only important with regard to early warning but even more so when it comes to early action – conflict prevention or crisis management – and post-conflict rehabilitation. The importance of ensuring a rapid and *cross-dimensional* response to emerging crisis situations cannot be understated. With regard to post-conflict rehabilitation, we must take a multi-faceted view to ensure that human security is also addressed in the root causes of the conflict.

In our work on the conflict cycle, we have also paid attention to gender issues – to be discussed at this meeting on Friday – and provided delegations with food-for-thought in strengthening gender aspects throughout the conflict cycle, especially with regard to UNSCR 1325. In the protection checklist we are currently developing together with UNHCR we pay special attention to the situation of displaced persons in the different stages of the conflict cycle – an issue you have on the agenda for this afternoon. Rule of law, the topic you will start discussing tomorrow, has been identified as a key aspect for successful confidence-building measures in the CBM Guide we published this summer. Finally, we will organize a workshop on reconciliation after the Dublin Ministerial looking at the importance of reconciliation in post-conflict rehabilitation as well as conflict prevention and conflict resolution. This issue is also closely linked to issues on your agenda – from effective justice to tolerance and non-discrimination.

Finally, in many instances ODIHR and the OSCE field operations – to which the CPC provides extensive policy support – work closely together and profit from their respective mandates and experiences which go beyond conflict issues. I think this co-operation has benefitted us all, ODIHR, the field operations and the societies which benefitted from this co-operation.

In our continuing work to strengthen our capabilities across the conflict cycle, we will continue to keep Human Dimension aspects in mind, including them in our efforts wherever possible. I also hope that you, as Human Dimension experts, will also keep in mind the work of the entire OSCE Secretariat, including the CPC so that we can find new ways to work together in *comprehensively* enhancing peace and stability across the OSCE area. For all of these reasons, I am very glad to have had the opportunity to address you today.

I wish you a successful meeting and inspiring debates, looking to improved HD standards and implementation record.

Thank you for your attention.