

**SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING
ON
THE ROLE OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AGAINST
DISCRIMINATION IN COMBATING RACISM AND
XENOPHOBIA WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON PERSONS
BELONGING TO NATIONAL MINORITIES AND
MIGRANTS**

**29-30 MAY 2008
HOFBURG VIENNA**

General Guidelines

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

1. Aim of the Meeting

The SHDM will examine the role of national institutions against discrimination on combating racism and xenophobia in participating States with special focus on national minorities and migrants. This meeting will provide an opportunity to identify the gaps in the work of national institutions and also show examples of good practices.

The meeting will focus on the following three areas:

- The roles and mandates of national institutions against discrimination in combating racism and xenophobia
- Overcoming challenges in responding to racism and xenophobia with a special focus on persons belonging to national minorities and migrants
- Good practices and effective policy responses in combating racism and xenophobia

Recommendations may be addressed to the participating States, the OSCE as a whole, OSCE institutions including the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, as well as the OSCE field operations, or other inter-governmental or non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors and National Human Rights Institutions in OSCE participating States.

2. Participation

Representatives of the OSCE participating States, OSCE Institutions, and OSCE field operations, representatives of international governmental organizations, representatives of non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors will participate in the Meeting.

The 'Partners for Co-operation' are invited to attend and contribute with respect to their co-operation and links with the OSCE in the field.

3. Guidelines for the Debates

The intention is to develop a free-flowing discussion based on the keynote speeches, introductory remarks, background information and written statements circulated in advance or during the Meeting. To this end, formal interventions in the form of prepared statements are not envisaged in the course of the Meeting and are discouraged.

Prepared statements, background documentation, comments or written materials may be submitted in advance for circulation by the Documents Distribution Centre.

4. Organization

On-line registration for all participants is available at <http://meetings.odihr.pl>. In case of any questions, please contact Ms. Anna Sierant at Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl or at tel.: +48 22 520 06 00 (ext. 4121) or Ms. Aleksandra Pietrowska at Aleksandra.Pietrowska@osce.org or at tel.: + 48 22 520 06 00 (ext. 1286).

In addition, advance registration will be available on Thursday, 29 May 2008, from 9:00 till 15:00 in the Hofburg Congress Centre, in the main entrance hall. Registration during the Meeting is available at the same place.

5. Other

Side Events may be held in the course of the two days. Additional information on the content and objectives of any side event, as well as timing and duration will be made available shortly on the website of the Meeting.