



HUMAN DIMENSION
S E M I N A R

2014 Human Dimension Seminar

Improving OSCE effectiveness by enhancing its co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations

Warsaw, 12-14 May 2014

ANNOTATED AGENDA

I. Introduction

Human Dimension Seminars are organized by the OSCE/ODIHR in accordance with the decisions of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) Summits in Helsinki (1992) and Budapest (1994). The 2014 Human Dimension Seminar is devoted to *Improving OSCE effectiveness by enhancing its co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations* in accordance with PC Decision No.1116.

As a recognized regional organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, the OSCE co-operates with numerous regional and international organizations in accordance with their mandates. Although the OSCE participating States determine how to implement OSCE human dimension commitments, they have established and mandated OSCE executive structures to assist them. These structures include the OSCE Secretariat, the OSCE Field Operations, Special Representatives of the Chairman-in-Office and the Institutions of the OSCE, namely the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the Representative on the Freedom of the Media (RFoM) and the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), as well as the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE.

In numerous CSCE and OSCE documents, the participating States have highlighted the importance of practical co-operation among OSCE participating States in the human dimension. In Helsinki 1992, the participating States reaffirmed their commitments to the Charter of the United Nations and pledged “*to improve contact and practical co-operation with appropriate international organizations*”, and “*to expand its relations with all organizations and institutions that are concerned with the promotion of comprehensive security within the OSCE area*” (Maastricht 2003).

In Istanbul (1999), the OSCE participating States committed themselves to “*joint measures based on co-operation, both in the OSCE and through those organizations of which we are members, in order to offer assistance to participating States to enhance their compliance with OSCE principles and commitments. We will strengthen existing co-operative instruments and develop new ones in order to respond efficiently to requests for assistance from participating States [...]*”.

The OSCE structures co-operate in the human dimension based on formally established and informal co-operation arrangements with a wide range of regional and international organizations which include the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Women, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as well as the Council of Europe (CoE), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the agencies and other structures of the European Union (EU).

In keeping with the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration, the OSCE participating States reiterated the common vision that comprehensive and lasting security is not possible without respect for human rights and democratic standards. The OSCE participating States thus initiated the Helsinki +40 process, to reflect on progress achieved in the implementation of the OSCE commitments, and to consider means to strengthen their implementation by all participating States and to ensure effective follow-up to recommendations made by the OSCE institutions. To effectively tackle these challenges, the OSCE's co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations is an important component to ensure synergies in programming and complementarity in potentially overlapping areas, to avoid duplication of efforts. Strengthened co-operation could also increase political "buy-in" by participating States on policies aimed at implementing OSCE commitments.

II. Aims

States are primarily responsible for implementing the OSCE human dimension commitments. The OSCE has created different structures (Institutions, Field Operations, CiO Representatives) in order to assist the participating States in implementing their OSCE human dimension commitments. OSCE structures work together with similar entities of other relevant regional and international organizations in order to improve their effectiveness when fulfilling their mandates.

The 2014 Human Dimension Seminar will review the current state of co-operation between the different OSCE structures and their respective counterparts in other relevant regional and international organizations. OSCE delegations, representatives of the civil society and the concerned entities of the OSCE and other relevant regional and international organizations will identify specific challenges, possible opportunities and best practices to improve their co-operation, and as a consequence improve implementation of OSCE commitments at the national level.

The discussion should be guided by the mandates of the OSCE structures and embrace all segments of the implementation cycle of OSCE commitments. The discussion should be specific and outcome oriented. It should allow the identification of immediate improvements of co-operation between OSCE structures and their counterparts that will contribute to enhancing implementation of OSCE commitments at the national level.

III. Participation

Representatives of OSCE participating States and structures and relevant regional and international organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and development agencies will participate in the Seminar.

The OSCE's Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation as well as other Partners for Co-operation are invited to attend and share their views and ideas on the effectiveness of co-operation between the OSCE and other regional and international organizations.

OSCE participating States are requested to publicize the Seminar widely within their networks of co-operation, with a particular focus on including experts and delegation representatives working with regional and international counterparts in the human dimension. All participants are encouraged to submit in advance written interventions outlining proposals regarding the topic of the Seminar, which will be distributed to the delegates. Participants are also encouraged to make brief oral interventions during the Seminar. While prepared interventions are welcomed during the plenary sessions, free-flowing discussion and exchanges are encouraged during the Working Group Sessions.

IV. Organization

The Seminar venue is the Novotel Hotel (Ul. Marszalkowska 94/98, Warsaw).

The Seminar will open on Monday, 12 May, 2014, at 10:00. It will close on Wednesday 14 May, 2014 at 18:00.

All plenary sessions and working group sessions will be open to all participants. The plenary and working group sessions will take place according to the Work Programme below.

Four Working Group Sessions will be held consecutively. They will focus on the following topics:

Working Group I: OSCE Human Dimension Commitments in the Context of OSCE Co-operation with Relevant Regional and International Organizations

Working Group II: Providing Assistance and Expertise

Working Group III: Collecting, Processing, Exchanging and Disseminating Data, Statistics and Other Information

Working Group IV: Best Practices for Co-operation between the OSCE and Other Relevant Regional and International Organizations

The closing plenary session, scheduled for the afternoon of 14 May 2014, will focus on practical suggestions and recommendations for addressing the issues discussed during the working group sessions.

A representative of ODIHR will chair the plenary sessions.

The Rules of Procedure of the OSCE and the modalities for OSCE meetings on human dimension issues (Permanent Council Decision No. 476) will be followed, *mutatis mutandis*,

at the Seminar. Also, the guidelines for organizing OSCE meetings (Permanent Council Decision No. 762) will be taken into account.

Discussions during the Plenary and Working Group sessions will be interpreted from and into the six working languages of the OSCE.

Registration will be possible during the Seminar days from 8:00 until 18:00.

By prior arrangement with the OSCE/ODIHR, facilities may be made available for participants to hold side events at the Seminar venue. A table for display/distribution of publications by participating organizations and institutions will also be available.

Work Programme

	Monday 12 May 2014	Tuesday 13 May 2014	Wednesday 14 May 2014
Morning 10:00-13:00	Opening Plenary	Working Group II	Working Group IV
Afternoon 15:00-18:00	Working Group I	Working Group III	Closing Plenary

Work Plan

Monday 12 May 2014

10:00-13:00 Opening Plenary Session

Opening remarks:

Ambassador Janez Lenarčič,
Director of the OSCE/ODIHR

Ambassador Thomas Greminger,
Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council
Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE

Ms. Krystyna Żurek,
Director of the United Nations and Human Rights Department, Ministry of Foreign
Affairs of the Republic of Poland

Keynote addresses:

Ambassador Ivan Šimonović,
Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights, OHCHR

Ambassador Zoltán Taubner
Director of External Relations, Council of Europe

Ambassador Adam Kobieracki,
Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre, OSCE

Technical Information:

Ms. Beatriz Balbin, First Deputy Director of the OSCE/ODIHR

15:00-18:00 Working Group Session I: OSCE Human Dimension Commitments in the Context of OSCE Co-operation with Relevant Regional and International Organizations

Panelists: **Ms. Ruth Pojman,** Acting Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, OSCE

Mr. Gianni Magazzeni, Chief of the Americas, Europe and Central Asia Branch, OHCHR

Mr. Walter Kälin, Director of the Swiss Center of Expertise in Human Rights

Moderator: **Mr. Thomas Vennen,** Head of Democratization Department, OSCE/ODIHR

Rapporteur: **Ms. Anne Helene Marsøe,** Permanent Delegation of Norway to the OSCE

The OSCE participating States have affirmed their “*full and active support for the United Nations and for the enhancement of its role and effectiveness in strengthening international peace, security and justice.*” They have also pledged to “*act in conformity with the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to fulfil their obligations as set forth in international declarations and agreements, including inter alia the International Covenants of Human Rights*” (Helsinki 1975).

While OSCE participating States are primarily responsible for implementing human rights and democratic principles at national level, relevant regional and international organizations play complementary roles in promoting, protecting and enhancing the universality of human rights and democratic governance principles, together with civil society organizations.

Specifically, the OSCE participating States have recognised the “*important expertise of the Council of Europe in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms*” (Copenhagen 1990) and have agreed to consider ways to further enable the Council of Europe to contribute to the human dimension of the OSCE. The OSCE has sought to strengthen and formalise co-operation with the Council of Europe through the establishment of the OSCE-CoE Co-ordination Group which prioritises areas of co-operation in the human dimension such as combatting terrorism, trafficking in human beings, the promotion of tolerance & non-discrimination, Roma and Sinti and the protection of national minorities. Co-operation between the EU and the OSCE is based on inter-institutional arrangements such as political dialogue and staff talks.

The mandates of OSCE structures often specifically include tasks to establish co-operation with regional and international organizations to avoid overlap and duplication. For example, OSCE participating States have directed ODIHR “*to work closely with other institutions active in the field of democratic institution building and human rights, particularly the Council of Europe and the European Commission for Democracy Through Law (Venice Commission)*” (Prague 1992) and to “*consult and co-operate with relevant bodies of the Council of Europe and examine ways how they can contribute to ODIHR’s activities*” (Helsinki 1992).

Similarly, OSCE participating States have directed the OSCE RFoM “*to co-operate, on the basis of regular contacts, with relevant international organizations, including the United Nations and its specialized agencies and the Council of Europe, with a view to enhancing co-ordination and avoiding duplication*”. (Copenhagen 1997). The RFoM attends for example meetings of the CoE Committee of Experts on Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists as an observer.

On the basis of OSCE Action Plans, the OSCE has also created specific formal co-operation arrangements to assist OSCE participating States in implementing commitments, in areas such as anti-trafficking or improving the situation of Roma and Sinti. Participating States have explicitly set up such arrangements to co-operate and co-ordinate with the United Nations and its specialised agencies the UNODC, the UNHCR, UNICEF, ILO, ICMPD, the EU, Interpol and Europol to name a few (Maastricht 2003).

OSCE structures have entered into numerous formal co-operation arrangement on the basis of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and Co-operation Agreements with relevant regional and international organizations such as OHCHR, UNHCR, or the Council of Europe and the EU, and in the case of Field Operations with their host countries, which also regulate co-operation with international organizations and development agencies.

Other co-operation arrangements also exist, such as regular consultations and staff meetings between OSCE structures and the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the EU. In addition, the OSCE and relevant regional and international organizations co-operate in the form of information exchange with regard to UN treaty body reporting, judicial mechanisms and other human rights related instruments.

OSCE Field Operations also play an important role in particular in relation to early warning and conflict prevention. In their commitments the participating States have emphasized “*the need for enhanced co-operation and co-ordination with relevant international organizations such as the Council of Europe, as well as with non-governmental organizations*” (Rome 1993).

Civil society representatives can contribute their expertise and experience to discussing how the OSCE and relevant regional and international organizations can better promote OSCE commitments, by making recommendations on how existing co-operation can profit from and better integrate information provided by civil society networks and build on their advocacy efforts with OSCE participating States. This contribution in return will “*enhance the ability of NGOs to make their full contribution to the further development of civil society and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms*” (Istanbul 1999).

This Working Group Session will focus on how the OSCE can better promote commitments, by learning from and increasing their co-operation with regional and international organizations to better assist OSCE participating States in developing new and implementing existing human dimension commitments.

Thus participants could consider:

- What are the most effective instruments of co-operation and co-ordination and lessons learned in promoting OSCE commitments? What are the strengths and weaknesses?
- What role can regional and international organizations and mechanisms play in relation to the role of the OSCE? How could the respective roles be strengthened?
- How does co-operation and co-ordination work between the OSCE and relevant regional and international organizations?
- Are existing MoUs and co-operation agreements appropriately implemented? How can they be monitored? Should the existing ones be extended, amended or new ones drafted?
- Are there gaps in co-operation arrangements between the OSCE and key regional and international organizations? If so, how can they be filled?
- How can the OSCE and relevant regional and international organizations better contribute to the development of OSCE commitments?
- How can regional and international organizations harmonize their approaches to co-operation in the human dimension?
- How does the OSCE use the resources and networks of its relevant regional and international counterparts and vice-versa for the promotion of OSCE commitments? How can their use be strengthened?
- How can participating States and civil society support increased co-operation between the OSCE and other regional and international organizations?

Tuesday 13 May 2014

10:00-13:00 Working Group Session II: Providing Assistance and Expertise

Panelists: **Ambassador György Szabó**, Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, OSCE

Ms. Simona Granata-Menghini, Deputy Secretary of the Venice Commission, Council of Europe

Mr. Yuri Dzhibladze, Center for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights

Moderator: **Ms. Beata Martin-Rozumilowicz**, Head of Election Department, OSCE/ODIHR

Rapporteur: **Ms. Natalia Kravtsova**, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the OSCE

OSCE structures provide assistance and expertise to OSCE participating States in the human dimension through a variety of means, including programme and project implementation, capacity building in the form of roundtables, workshops and training, facilitating good practice exchange, and the development of practical tools and publications. They provide expertise in areas such as human rights and fundamental freedoms, legislative assistance and the rule of law, democratic governance, women's political participation and gender equality, tolerance & non-discrimination, election observation and follow up to election-related recommendations, media freedom and the protection and promotion of rights of persons belonging to national minorities, including Roma and Sinti. OSCE assistance ensures follow-up to recommendations made in OSCE assessments and reports, such as OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Reports, Human Rights Assessment and Mission Reports, OSCE/ODIHR legal opinions, trial monitoring reports and HCNM recommendations.

In providing assistance, OSCE structures co-operate with a number of relevant regional and international organizations in the implementation of joint activities and projects, for example in the framework of the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation which gathers key counterparts such as the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division (UNEAD), the European Union and Parliament, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), the National Democratic Institute (NDI), International IDEA, and the Carter Center.

The OSCE/ODIHR also acts as the OSCE liaison to the Council of Europe on local governance issues, bringing together OSCE Field Operations and Council of Europe field offices and regularly facilitates a criminal justice forum in Central Asia, bringing together OSCE Field Operations and UN entities such as UNODC, UNDP, the Council of Europe and the EU. The OSCE and the Council of Europe have set up a co-ordination group to co-ordinate assistance in the field of anti-terrorism, and the OSCE, CODEXTER and UNCTED regularly meet to exchange information and expertise in the field of anti-terrorism.

The HCNM regularly co-operates with the relevant structures of the Council of Europe, including the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the Venice Commission and the Commissioner for Human Rights. Such co-operation is particularly important in the provision of advice to participating States, as it ensures coherence of the system of rights protection as well as an opportunity to compare priorities of the institutions whose goals coincide while mandates and competences differ. The HCNM also co-operates with the UN, in particular with the OHCHR on minority rights and the UNHCR in specific and regional cases of mutual concern.

The RFoM co-operates closely with the United Nations, including with the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression. On the initiative of the RFoM, the special rapporteurs on freedom of opinion and expression of the United Nations, the Organization of American States, the African Union and the OSCE RFoM issue joint statements on media issues that require global and urgent attention. The Office also co-operates with the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA) and the European Audiovisual Observatory, where it has observer status and is an Advisory Board member.

The OSCE Field Operations provide input to National Action Plans and Reform Strategies and chair international sector working groups in their host countries in close co-operation with their relevant regional and international counterparts. They also co-operate on joint projects and capacity building activities.

Civil society representatives make key contributions to OSCE assistance programmes and projects often in co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations. They can thus provide recommendations and their insights into how the OSCE can strengthen co-operation by integrating civil society expertise into their programmatic work.

This Working Group Session will focus on identifying existing areas of co-operation between the OSCE and regional and international organizations and how the OSCE can strengthen them to provide assistance to participating States in meeting their human dimension commitments.

Thus participants could consider:

- What are the existing areas of co-operation in the human dimension between the OSCE and regional and international organizations? How can they be strengthened? Which gaps exist?
- Is there sufficient awareness within the OSCE and regional and international organizations of existing co-operation arrangements? How can such awareness be increased to activate co-operation enshrined in these agreements?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of co-operation between the OSCE and regional and international organizations in providing assistance to OSCE participating States?
- How can coherence of co-operation in the provision of assistance be ensured?
- How can requests made by OSCE participating States to OSCE structures be better addressed through improved co-operation?
- What impact does the competition for resources have on co-operation between the OSCE and regional and international organizations?
- How can assistance provided by the OSCE and regional and international organizations to OSCE participating States be made more effective to avoid duplication?
- Should the OSCE focus more on regional approaches to assistance in co-operation with regional and international organizations and do they have a greater impact than tailor-made national projects/activities? Who drives the demand for regional approaches?
- What types of co-operation arrangements should the OSCE focus on in terms of providing assistance to bring the greatest added value to beneficiaries?
- How can “beneficiary fatigue” resulting from multiple programmes and projects implemented by the OSCE and regional and international organizations be tackled to generate more ownership and thus better ensure sustainability and impact of assistance to OSCE participating States?
- What can participating States and civil society contribute to enhancing co-operation between the OSCE and regional and international organizations?

15:00-18:00 Working Group Session III: Collecting, Processing, Exchanging and Disseminating Data, Statistics and Other Information

Panelists: **Ambassador Miroslava Beham**, Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, OSCE

Ms. Joanna Goodey, Head of Freedoms and Justice Department, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

Ms. Virginie Coulloudon, Group Director External Relations, Transparency International

Moderator: **Ms. Floriane Hohenberg**, Head of Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department, OSCE/ODIHR

Rapporteur: **Mr. Chad Wilton**, United States Mission to the OSCE

In fulfilling their human dimension mandates, the OSCE structures collect, process, exchange and disseminate data, statistics and other information for the purposes of data collection. They also maintain expert networks and conduct research and assess and write analytical reports focused on the human dimension situation in the OSCE region. Such information forms the basis for the setting and interpretation of OSCE commitments and international standards, and for specific and tailor-made recommendations provided by OSCE structures to OSCE participating States with a view to enhancing the implementation of OSCE commitments.

The OSCE co-operates with relevant regional and international organizations as well as civil society networks to collect and ensure accuracy, comprehensiveness and objectivity of collected information. This is done through a variety of ways including the organization of regular staff talks, the conduct of joint missions, and contributions to mutually established reporting tools, research and publications.

Examples of research and publication of tools designed to assist OSCE participating States include the *OSCE/ODIHR-CoE Venice Commission Guidelines on Freedom of Assembly, on Political Party Regulation, and on Freedom of Religion and Belief*, the *OSCE/ODIHR-CoE-UNESCO Guidelines for educators on countering intolerance and discrimination against Muslims*, and OSCE-HCNM recommendations, including the *Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations on National Minorities in Inter-State Relations*, and the *Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies*.

OSCE structures also collect and exchange information and data during fact-finding missions, which result in specific recommendations for OSCE participating States. They benefit from regular and co-ordinated information exchange with regional and international organizations such as the Venice Commission and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), the Council of Europe European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), the EU, UN agencies and specialized committees, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), as well as from exchanges with the Community of Democracy and civil society actors and networks such as the ICRC, ICNL, ECNL.

OSCE structures also contribute information and expertise to established annual reporting tools and procedures of their regional and international counterparts, particularly in the fields of human rights and rule of law. Examples are the OSCE contributions to the annual co-operative Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process to assess the human rights situation of UN member States by the Human Rights Council, or the support provided to OSCE participating States in relation to UN treaty body reporting (CEDAW). OSCE structures also provide expertise and input to UN studies, EC Instruments for Pre-Accession (IPA) Progress Reports and the GRECO Reports of the Council of Europe.

Data collection, the creation of and provision of access to databases on specific human dimension themes is a further area of co-operation between the OSCE and regional and international organizations. For example, OSCE/ODIHR has contributed to the development of International IDEA's political financing database and maintains databases as resources for governments, civil society and Field Operations such as *Legislationline* which collects information on human dimension legislation in the OSCE region, *Associationline* which collects information on freedom of association, and the Tolerance and Non-discrimination Information System (TANDIS). Furthermore, OSCE/ODIHR produces an annual report on hate crime – Incidents and Responses – which is based on data received from participating States, as well as reports of hate crime incidents from more than hundred non-governmental organizations from the entire OSCE region.

The OSCE Secretariat Gender Section has also established successful partnerships with regional and international organizations to collect and share data on gender-related issues. For example, the Gender Section intends to apply the EU Fundamental Rights Agency's (FRA) violence against women survey methodology, designed to collect data from the 28 EU member states on incidences of violence against women, to the broader OSCE region.

Civil society representatives and their networks are a key resource for information collection and research for the OSCE structures, including in their co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations. Civil society often are a key link between the OSCE and regional and international organization to exchange information, contribute to reports and assessments and provide support in relation to data collection and dissemination. Their expertise and recommendations on how to improve data collection, exchange and dissemination will add value to the discussions.

This Working Group Session will focus on how the OSCE structures can increase collaboration with their respective counterparts in other regional and international organizations to more effectively collect, exchange and disseminate data, statistics and other information concerning the human dimension.

Thus participants could consider:

- Are existing co-operation arrangements effective for the purposes of collecting, exchanging and disseminating information? How can they be strengthened?
- What challenges do OSCE structures and their regional and international counterparts face in the collection, exchange and dissemination of data and information?
- How can new technologies contribute to improved information exchange, dissemination and data collection within the OSCE and between the OSCE and regional and international organizations?
- How can information exchange, data collection and dissemination between the OSCE and regional and international counterparts help to address implementation gaps in human dimension commitments?
- How can complementarity in the collection, processing, exchange and dissemination of data as result of co-operation be ensured?
- How can proper follow-up to data collection, information exchange and dissemination by OSCE structures in co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations be ensured?
- How do relevant regional and international organizations maintain mutual databases and use the information and expertise provided by the OSCE and vice-versa?

- What can civil society contribute to and benefit from co-operation between the OSCE and regional and international organizations?

Wednesday 14 May 2014

10:00-13:00 Working Group Session IV: Best Practices for Co-operation between the OSCE and Other Relevant Regional and International Organizations

Panelists: **Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris**, Director of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, OSCE

Mr. Juan Barata Mir, Principal Adviser to the Representative on Freedom of the Media, OSCE

Ms. Beatriz Balbin, First Deputy Director, OSCE/ODIHR

Moderator: **Mr. Omer Fisher**, Deputy Head of Human Rights Department, OSCE/ODIHR

Rapporteur: **Ambassador Sanja Milinkovic**, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the OSCE

Co-operation between OSCE structures and relevant regional and international organizations takes many forms, and as such best practices exist where co-ordination and co-operation is effective, leading to the identification of human dimension implementation gaps and the setting of international standards for the benefit of OSCE participating States and civil society in the OSCE region.

Practices include the setting up of institutional co-operation arrangements which foresee the holding of regular meetings and the addressing of decision-making bodies by the respective Chairmanships, Secretaries General and Heads of Institutions between the OSCE and regional and international organizations, such as the United Nations, the EU and the Council of Europe. Interaction includes political dialogue and cross-participation in Ministerial meetings and 2+2 High Level meetings, as well as regular senior officials' meetings and working level staff talks.

Examples of good co-operation practices include the regular co-operation between OSCE/ODIHR and the CoE Venice Commission on the issuance of joint legislative opinions in the human dimension and of Guidelines which include good practices and international standards to support participating States and civil society in implementing commitments. OSCE/ODIHR also initiated the 2009 compilation of a compendium of good practice in the field of human rights education in co-operation with the Council of Europe, the OHCHR and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). ODIHR co-operates with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) to promote remembrance of and teaching about the Holocaust, with UNESCO in the International Task Force on Education for Roma and with the Council of Europe on promoting Roma women and youth empowerment.

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media co-operates regularly with the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression and the Council of Europe (CoE) Commissioner for Human Rights to promote free expression and media freedom in OSCE participating States. Joint statements on topics of mutual concern are issued and contributions made to publications; the two offices also share information and legal assessments on issues concerning both organizations.

The OSCE HCNM engages in regular informal co-operation at the expert level with counterparts in the Council of Europe and the UN, while also systematically engaging in structured dialogue on thematic issues, including the development of thematic commentaries and recommendations issued by the organizations on issues concerning national minorities, which contributes to a consistent interpretation of existing standards even as these evolve over time. The HCNM has been co-operating with the UNHCR and the EU in addressing through a regional approach the lack of access to civil registration of the Roma population in South Eastern Europe, resulting in the adoption of the 2011 Zagreb Declaration.

The OSCE Field Operations often act as focal points of donor co-ordination in their host countries or host regular co-ordination meetings among international organizations with the aim of exchanging information. Examples of such co-operation exist in the conduct of co-ordination meetings between IOM, UNHCR, ICMPD and ILO in the field of anti-trafficking, election co-ordination meetings, donor co-ordination with the EU, UNDP, GIZ, USAID and the Council of Europe in the fields of rule of law and human rights. OSCE Field Operations with the respective mandate also co-operate with and follow-up on UN Special Rapporteur visits, and contribute to the Universal Periodic Review process.

Civil society actors in the OSCE region have also established good practices in co-operation with OSCE structures, and relevant regional and international organizations. Examples include the participation of civil society in OSCE Civil Society Fora and OSCE Human Dimension Meetings, their regular inclusion in programmatic activities of OSCE structures, as well as their consultation through OSCE Chairman-in-Office Representatives and fora. Civil society can thus contribute recommendations to the OSCE on how to strengthen and replicate good practices in co-operating with other regional and international organizations.

This Working Group Session will focus on the identification and discussion of good practices of co-operation between OSCE structures, institutions and field missions and regional and international organizations, and how they can benefit from best practices of their respective counterparts in other regional and international organizations.

Thus participants could consider:

- Which best practices exist in relation to the OSCE's co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations? Why are they effective?
- Which types of co-operation arrangements are the most effective for the purposes of data collection, information exchange and dissemination? Which actors should be involved?
- How can best practices be replicated and extended so as to increase co-operation between the OSCE and relevant regional and international organizations and to enhance efficient use of resources?
- Do donor co-ordination and other co-ordination arrangements function effectively? What can be done to strengthen them?

- How can best practices in co-operation increase the impact and accountability of the OSCE?
- What specificities of the OSCE can be strengthened to establish best practices in co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations?
- How can co-operation between the OSCE and relevant regional and international organizations enhance the effective use of resources?

15:00-18:00 Closing Plenary Session

Rapporteurs Summaries from the Working Group Sessions

Statements by Delegations

Closing Remarks:

Ms. Beatriz Balbin, First Deputy Director of the OSCE/ODIHR

Closing of the Seminar