

16th HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

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Speaking Points of

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Working Session 17: Human Dimension Activities (with special
emphasis on project work)

Check against delivery!

- Welcome to Working Session 17 of the 2012 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, devoted to a discussion of human dimension activities (with special emphasis on project work). I am pleased to be joined here today by two representatives of the OSCE Secretariat, Mr. Murat Yildiz of the Strategic Police Matters Unit in the Transnational Threats Department and Ms. Nina Lindroos-Kopolo, of the Office of the Co-ordinator for Economic and Environmental Affairs, who have agreed to participate in this session in order to discuss the close interaction of our respective structures and the cross-dimensional nature of our work.
- I believe their presence here today, along with that of the OSCE Secretary-General at our working session yesterday and that of the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre at our opening plenary session last week, reflect the continuing close co-operation between ODIHR and the Secretariat in supporting the implementation of human dimension commitments undertaken by OSCE participating States.
- I am also happy to be joined here by a number of ODIHR colleagues whom I will introduce in the course of our session. At the same time I would like to recall the important role played by the other two OSCE human dimension institutions, the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Representative on Freedom of the Media, each of which had the opportunity to discuss their priorities and activities at

- I will proceed now by highlighting ODIHR's overall approach to programmatic work and a few activities of each ODIHR programmatic Department, and to welcome comments from our Vienna-based guests on their work as it relates to the human dimension.
- ODIHR carries out its core mandate through main programmes on elections, democratization, human rights, tolerance and non-discrimination, and a Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues. These programmes are laid out in the annual Programme Outline and Unified Budget documents, and are supplemented by additional activities funded through extrabudgetary contributions.
- ODIHR has tried and tested various tools over the years. These range from assessments of the political, policy, legislative and practical landscape, through multi-lingual specialist handbooks, publications

- ODIHR seeks to add value. Its 21 years of experience have highlighted the following ways in which it can do just that:
 - Proactive transfer of good practices within the OSCE region
 - Raising awareness of important policy and legislative issues
 - Creating a focused platform for discussion and closer co-operation on a specific topic
 - Mainstreaming human rights into specialized areas
 - Responding to requests
 - Reaching out to state authorities and civil society in parallel
 - Combining theory and practice
 - Strong local ownership
- Here I will cite a few project examples which show how ODIHR is using its resources (both Unified Budget and extrabudgetary) to assist

Democratization

- In 2012-2013, through its ‘Women in Political Parties’ project, ODIHR is emphasizing cross-party co-operation among women politicians, as a strategy for promoting women as candidates for public office and for enhancing gender equality within parties. Events organized in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine have validated this approach, with more than 300 women trained on political campaigning and leadership and new legislative measures promoting women's candidacy in some places. In Georgia, for example, the recently-amended Electoral Code introduced financial incentives for parties to nominate more women. From this ODIHR has seen a need to engage political party leadership more systematically and to increase efforts to get more women involved in local governance.

- ODIHR continues, on request, to review individual legislation for compliance with international standards and commitments, and to analyze lawmaking processes based on OSCE commitments on the openness and transparency of this process (Copenhagen and Moscow Documents). This year, the work of ODIHR's Legislative Support Unit has impacted on specific legal reform efforts, including amendments to Polish freedom of assembly legislation, and discussions on the calculation of time limits for detention (both criminal and administrative) in Kazakhstan. Efforts to reform the lawmaking system in Serbia continue, with ODIHR roundtables planned in November, and February and April next year. A preliminary assessment of the lawmaking system in Armenia is underway, following a request from the OSCE Office in Yerevan.
- Of its rule of law activities, ODIHR wishes to highlight the upcoming Expert Forum on Criminal Justice for Central Asia, which takes place on 29-31 October in Almaty. The Forum will be a platform for leading policy makers and experts from Central Asia and other OSCE

- ODIHR is supporting Kyrgyz authorities in their efforts to reform their population registration framework and the underlying legislation. Of its migration work, ODIHR would highlight its recent assessment of the “Social and economic inclusion of women from migrant households in Tajikistan,” which was discussed with key national stakeholders just recently at a national conference in Dushanbe in co-operation with UN Women.

[Handover to Nina Lindroos-Kopolo, OCEEA on co-operation with Democratization Department]

Human Rights

- Last year ODIHR initiated a project to observe public assemblies in 11 participating States. The exercise, which took place between May 2011 and June 2012, identified challenges and examples of good

- At the November SHDM on the freedoms of assembly and association, for which the information package including the annotated agenda are being distributed today, ODIHR will publish the comprehensive monitoring report alongside recommendations. This report will pave the way for follow-up activities that allow for exchange of the good practices identified, among interested participating States.
- On 1 July 2012 ODIHR started a 3-year project on ‘Human Rights Protection for Trafficked Persons and Vulnerable Groups in Central Asia.’ The project will cover at least 3 countries in the region. It focuses on the development of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for identification of and assistance to the victims of

[Handover to Murat Yildiz, TNT co-operation with Human Rights Department]

Elections

- Elections Department has finalized and published two new handbooks this year: a Handbook on Media Monitoring for Election Observation Missions, and a Handbook for the Observation of Voter Registration.
- ODIHR's hallmark 'Fund for the Diversification of Election Observation Missions' has received much support from participating States and continues to do so. This Fund enables ODIHR to contribute to the diversification of election observation missions, in line with MC Decision 19/06 by deploying funded LTOs and STOs to most election observation missions.

- ODIHR also holds two training sessions for STOs and one for LTOs each year. Two participants from each of the 17 eligible participating States are invited to participate in every training session. In deploying observers to election observation missions, preference is given to trained participants.
- Elections Department have finalized an e-learning tool for short-term observers. This is available online to everyone.

[Handover to Alexander Shlyk, e-learning]

Tolerance and Non-Discrimination

- In June ODIHR pilot-trained an international group of prosecutors on hate crimes, and delivered the full training in September in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The TAHCLE programme (Training against Hate Crime for Law Enforcement) is rolling out in Ukraine, Bulgaria and Kosovo, with follow-up in Croatia, Hungary and Poland.
- Guides on prosecuting hate crime and on data collection are being finalized now by ODIHR. A consultation meeting is scheduled in Almaty for the end of October to discuss one of these drafts. ODIHR

- ODIHR has finalized its training curriculum on freedom of religion or belief. In response to this very topical issue, on Tuesday, on the margins of this Meeting, ODIHR held a first consultation with civil society on future guidelines on the recognition of religious or belief communities.
- ODIHR's guidelines on countering intolerance against Muslims were presented at roundtables with government officials and experts in Vienna and Paris. Following in the long series of country adaptations produced by ODIHR and the Anne Frank House, ODIHR's teaching materials on anti-Semitism have been finalized and disseminated in Austria.

Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues

- ODIHR has started work on the next Status Report, to be issued in 2013, the 10 year anniversary of the historic OSCE Action Plan on

- ODIHR has now completed a draft report on its latest field visit – to the Czech Republic – devoted to inclusive education of Roma and Sinti children. ODIHR staff members were accompanied on this visit by the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office, a senior official of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and external education experts who all took part in consultations with a wide range of stakeholders. Their findings have been transmitted to host country authorities for possible comments and will be published soon.

- This year the Contact Point has also agreed with the government of Moldova a package of assistance and support for implementation of its Roma Strategy.
- In January this year ODIHR embarked on a large-scale, two-year project on ‘Best Practices for Roma Integration’ involving 7 jurisdictions in South East Europe. This project is demonstrating how the OSCE can make best use of its decentralized structures, by combining ODIHR’s regional mandate and policy expertise, with the grassroots operational network of OSCE field operations. The project reaches out to state authorities and civil society in parallel and is now starting to show how proactive transfer of good practices within the region can have an impact.

Other

- Lastly, ODIHR is finding ways in which it can pass on the many lessons learned and positive experiences of democratic reform which have accumulated across the OSCE in the past 20 years, to our OSCE Partners for Co-operation in North Africa – with success, notably in

- We appreciate that today's session has provided us with an opportunity to outline ODIHR's current work and future project plans. We stand ready to hear your ideas and comments on this work and to provide similar support to other OSCE participating States upon request.

[Announce ODIHR's EXB Programme Package]